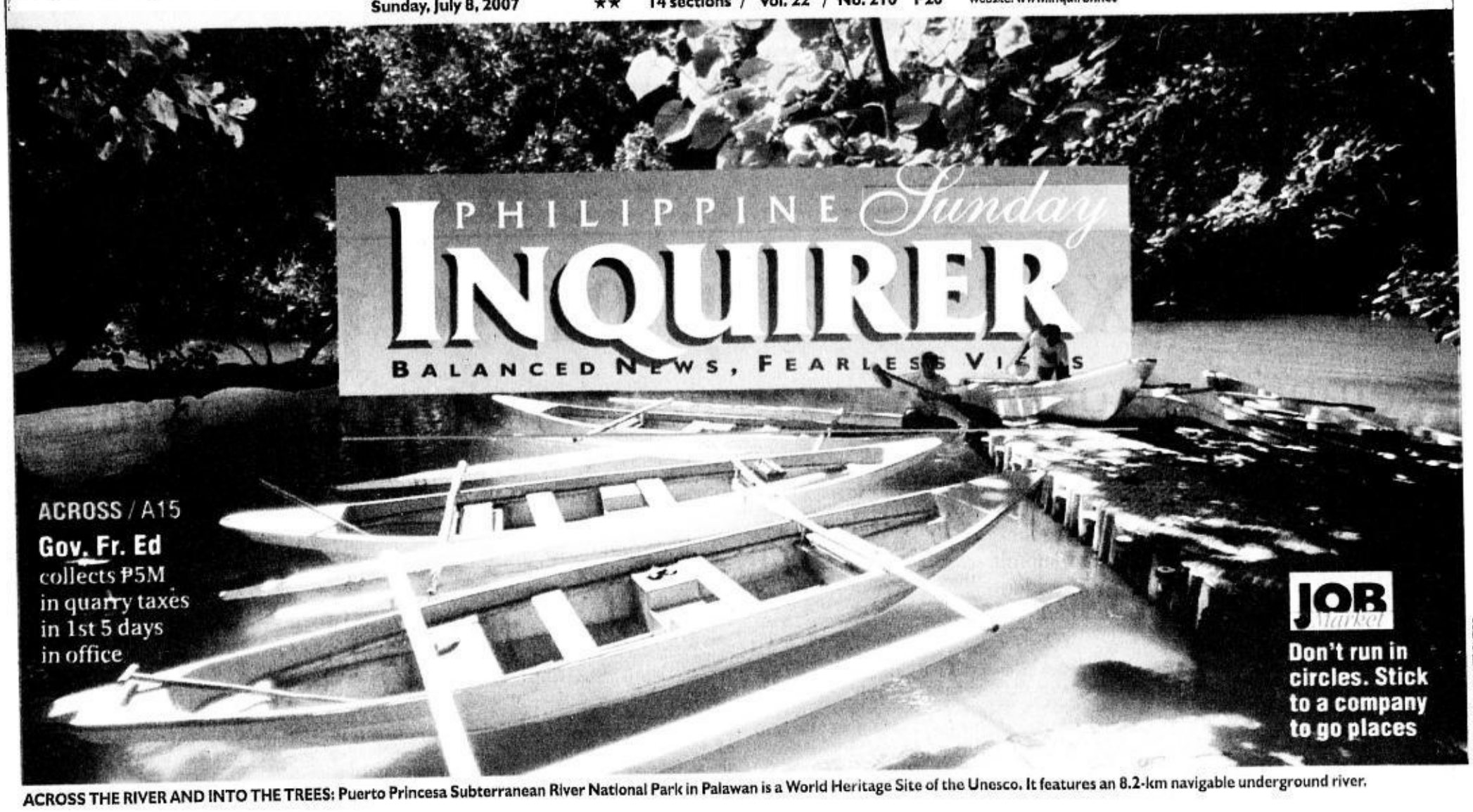
Sunday, July 8, 2007 ★★ 14 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 210 P20 website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



ACROSS / A15
Gov. Fr. Ed collects ₱5M in quarry taxes in 1st 5 days in office

JOB Market
Don't run in circles. Stick to a company to go places

EGAY MONTANA/CONTRIBUTOR

ACROSS THE RIVER AND INTO THE TREES: Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park in Palawan is a World Heritage Site of the Unesco. It features an 8.2-km navigable underground river.

Bossi photos spark hope

Fellow priests say they look forward to pictures of his liberation

By Julie S. Alipala, *Inquirer Mindanao*

ZAMBOANGA CITY—HOPE HAS RISEN THAT KIDNAPPED Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi is still alive with the confirmation that it is indeed he in photographs received by his friend.

On Saturday morning, the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (Pime) community posted a statement on its website saying: "There are now pictures of the captivity of Father Giancarlo Bossi. We can see them on cell phones, TV and newspapers. Taken in an undisclosed place where there are trees of a young forest. He is wearing the same clothes he wore on the day of his kidnapping. The *tsinelas* (slippers) are red and new. There are rubber shoes, too, left on the ground. Containers of water suggest that they are hiking up in some higher places, maybe mountains, where the air is much thin and cooler.

"Other things are inside these pictures, but we do not care! We will never put them in this blog. They make us sad. We like other pictures; those of the day of his liberation!"

Italian lawmaker Margherita Boniver, sent by her government to help facilitate Bossi's release, said the photographs "could have been taken 12 to 14 days after his abduction" on June 10.

"His fellow priests said he lost lots of weight, and his beard is different from the time when he was kidnapped," Boniver said of Bossi, a member of Pime.

But Boniver told reporters in Zamboanga that the photographs were not dated, and warned against becoming too hopeful that the photos were proof that Bossi had not been killed, The Associated Press said.

"It is not possible to state that this is hard proof of his being still alive," Boniv-

BOSSI/ A6

"NOT PROOF OF LIFE, Italian envoy Margarita Boniver cautions after she sees Bossi's first photos in captivity. She adds that Bossi has become a national hero in Italy and the whole country is following events with much hope and prayers. REUTERS

Cheche makes a difference through 20 probing years

By Kate Pedroso
Inquirer Research

FOR VETERAN BROADCAST JOURNAList, producer and educator Cecilia "Cheche" Lazaro, this year's recipient of the Gawad Plaridel Award, the 20-year trip to where she is now was all about focusing on a goal, holding on to beliefs and abiding by personal convictions.

"My life as a communicator reflects my life as an independent producer. It started out as a dream—a wish, if you will—to make a difference," Lazaro said in a lecture on July 4 before students and faculty members at the Cine Adarna of the University of the Philippines Film Institute.

"In the end, I must say I got much more than I bargained for," she said.

Lazaro is the fourth recipient of the UP College of Mass Communication's Gawad Plaridel. The award is given out annually to a Filipino media practitioner who has excelled in print, film, radio, television or the new media. *(See In the Know, Page A8.)*

The driving force behind the first and

CHECHE/ A8

Sick boy started it all for Rosa Rosal 57 years ago

By Jeannette I. Andrade

IT TOOK A SICK BOY TO LEAD movie icon Rosa Rosal to a life of unconditional volunteer service.

Rosal can no longer remember the boy's name, who was in a coma when the budding actress first saw him in the emergency ward of the Philippine General Hospital one day in 1948.

"He was comatose for three days. I kept on coming back. I did not know what a coma was. I had no idea what caused it. I found out that he fell from a five-story building and he was bleeding inside. He was hemorrhaging," Rosal said in Filipino.

When the actress, then only 17, learned that the boy needed a neurologist, she called up a friend, Dr. Victor Reyes, a neurosurgeon, who readily obliged and examined the boy. Reyes said the boy needed a blood transfusion.

They got the blood and an operation was performed immediately. The boy was saved.

That incident changed Rosal's life. "It was that boy that started it. It was then that I saw how blood, no matter how small a drop, can give life."

From then on, Rosal has been in the forefront of taking and donating blood to save lives. It has been her life and crusade for almost 57 years now.

SICK BOY/ A8

The only Pinoy (or Pinay) in Tonga tilt

IN SHEER "SIZE," THE TITLE AT stake was definitely smaller than Miss Universe, but considerably bigger than either Miss World or Miss Earth. In terms of "scope," however, Tonga's Miss Galaxy Queen contest may be said to be bigger than any pageant,

THE ONLY/ A6

How sweet it is: Negros organic sugar a hit in Paris

By Volt Contreras

BACOLOD CITY—SHE TOURED PARIS for 17 days to attend a trade fair, visit some stores and see up close how her product appealed to French tastes.

How sweet it is, Florinda Dagohoy now recalls, smiling through what's left of her front teeth. And so does the future seem for this sugarcane farmer from Negros Occidental who, in her late 50s, learned how to grow organic.

Her healthy harvest now sits on European grocery shelves.

Dagohoy and her Filipino partner in the production of export-quality, chemical-free "muscovado" (raw sugar) were invited to France in April to report on ongoing efforts to promote earth-friendly farming in Negros, the Philippines' sugar bowl with a bitter past.

She and some 3,000 other Negrense farmers are being led down the green path by Alter Trade, a network of organizations formed in response to the Negros hunger crisis in the 1980s, when the local sugar industry collapsed and hacienda workers were laid off by the thousands. (The children of Negros became poster kids of malnutrition and rural poverty, and their parents, gaunt icons of peasant unrest.)

Last week, a number of the farmers gathered to thank one of their major benefactors, the European Commission, which provided Alter Trade with a P10.18-million grant in 2006.

For Ambassador Alistair MacDonald, head of the EC delegation in Manila,

HOW SWEET/ A8

P1.5-B school launches 'pay later' plan for seamen

By Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CALAMBA CITY—ALMER POSTOR'S dream of becoming a seafarer and earning enough for his family now looms larger than ever.

The reason: The opening of a new P1.5-billion maritime school in a sprawling industrial park here where Postor is now enrolled on a scholarship.

Postor is actually among the first batch of students enrolled at the NYK-TDG Maritime Academy (NTMA) whose opening last Friday was graced by President Macapagal-Arroyo and officials of the Japanese government.

NYK stands for Nippon Yusen Kaisha, a Japanese shipping company considered to be the oldest in the world and the largest in Asia.

TDG, or Transnational Diversified Group, is a Filipino-owned company which serves as the local partner of NYK.

Capt. Antonio Dael, dean of the Center for Shipboard Training and Continuing Education at NTMA, said one of the main thrusts of the maritime school is to help poor but intelligent students like Postor fulfill their dreams of becoming successful merchant marine officers.

P1.5-B SCHOOL/ A6

Something smells so good at the Disney-Pixar kitchen. Who's cooking? Filipino animator Gini Cruz Santos has scrumptious recipe for 'Ratatouille'
JUNIOR INQUIRER

Why and how Filipinos go crazy over Japanese animation
SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Top 10 unique items to buy from the Japan Home Center in Cubao's Farmer's Market
SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Celebrity wedding of the year: 'Desperate' housewife Eva Longoria weds Tony Parker in a chateau outside Paris to catch the mystique of the 777 date
ENTERTAINMENT / H2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2007

EZ2 SIX DIGIT
19 29 | 2 7 7 9 5 6
Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening
2 1 5 | 0 7 5
(All in exact order)
6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN
4 6 11 19 31 39
P5,439,074.40

Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Mostly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY SCHATZI GUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/07/07/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Gov't execs hang on to posts

Exemptions from GMA revamp, reappointments sought

By Michael Lim Ubac

SOME GOVERNMENT APPOINTEES IN SEquestered companies are bent on clinging to their posts despite a Malacañang directive to submit their courtesy resignations to give President Macapagal-Arroyo a free hand in reorganizing the bureaucracy.

The appointees are reportedly trying to get exemptions from Ms Arroyo's revamp of government-owned and -controlled corporations and financial institutions.

Without naming names, Malacañang yesterday admitted it had yet to receive the resignation letters of all the government nominees and appointees, including those sitting in the boards of sequestered companies such as Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC).

Presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio, however, said: "I don't have that information. I have to check with ES (Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita)."

Acting PHC chair Enrique Locsin and other government nominees had already tendered their resignation, according to lawyer Lorna Kapunan, counsel for five families claiming ownership of the P1.5-billion corporation.

The other government appointees are Manuel Andal, Philip Bordett, Luis Lokin and Johnny Tan.

"That's public knowledge that they have resigned as ordered by GMA," said Kapunan.

INQUIRER sources in the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), however, said Locsin and the other appointees wanted to be reappointed despite the findings of a recent Senate inquiry that the current government nominees in POTC (Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp.) and Philcomsat had been ineffective in protecting the interests of the government in these corporations.

PHC is 80-percent owned by Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat).

Both companies in turn are owned by the POTC, whose shares were sequestered in 1986 on allegations these were acquired with ill-gotten wealth.

The PCGG was formed in 1986 to go after the ill-gotten wealth of dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his cronies.

In an April 12 ruling, the Makati Regional Trial Court handed over full ownership and control of PHC to the owners led by a group of five families, evicting the board representing the PCGG.

The ruling came after almost two decades of a protracted legal battle over PHC, a cash-rich P1.5-billion company with no debt.

The order issued by Judge Zenaida Galapate-Laguilles of the Makati RTC Branch 138 was the formal execution of an Oct. 14, 2006, ruling by the same court that nullified the election of the PCGG board headed by Locsin in 2004.

That board consisted of Locsin, Julio Jalandoni, Manuel Andal, Luis Lokin Jr., Manuel Nieto Jr., Roberto V. San Jose, Philip Brodett, Oliverio Laperal, Benito Araneta and Roberto Abad.

The judge recognized as "valid" the board headed by Victor V. Africa with members Erlinda Ilusorio-Bildner, Katrina Ponce-Enrile, Honorio Poblador III, Fedrico Agcaoili, Sylvia Ilusorio and Jose Ozamiz.

The decision settled for the time being a long-standing quarrel among shareholders for control of three companies—PHC, Philcomsat and POTC.

Maguindanao town results show 6-4-2 for GO bets

By Jerome Aning

THE NUMBERS FROM 36 ELECtion returns (ERs) that surfaced in Pagalungan, Maguindanao, are out. They show that unlike the rest of the provincial canvass which listed some opposition candidates with zero votes, all 37 senatorial candidates did receive some votes.

No candidate got zero votes, according to the tally, which clustered the results from 38 precincts in the 36 ERs from eight of the town's 12 barangays.

The ERs from Pagalungan were not included in the provincial canvass by controversial election supervisor Lintang Bedol.

The Pagalungan results, issued by the Special Board of Canvassers for Maguindanao, showed six Genuine Opposition candidates, four Team Unity candidates and two independents making it to the Top 12.

TU's Jamalul Kiram III placed first with 2,732 votes, followed by Genuine Opposition's Antonio Trillanes IV with 1,911 and Cesar Montano, also of TU, 1,511.

The candidate who placed last, Eduardo Orpilla of Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, got 18 votes.

Opposition lawyers believe this is the first authentic set of election documents to come out of Maguindanao province.

While the Pagalungan ERs were not numerically significant, it was enough to show that the provincial certificates of canvass (COCs) presented by Bedol, as well as the recanvassed tally, were likely fraudulent, Genuine Opposition lawyers said.

The controversial Maguindanao CoC has the administration senatorial slate Team Unity sweeping the top 12 positions in the provincial tally, with 19 other candidates getting zero votes.

In the original CoC presented by Bedol, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson ranked number one; but it was Zubiri who topped the Maguindanao vote in the recanvass.

Among the candidates who received zero votes in the provincial tally but who got votes in the Pagalungan ERs were GO Senators-elect Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, Alan Peter Cayetano, Panfilo Lacson and Antonio Trillanes IV.

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
Only that Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim would not allow protests on Mendiola Street in front of Malacañang to get out of hand (even if he did order its opening to demonstrators), he assures President Arroyo who seems to be tickled pink by the assurance. The occasion was the inauguration of the Sentro ng Karunungan in Tayuman, Manila, which was attended by Speaker Jose de Venecia (left) and Rep. Jaime Lopez (right). Story is in Metro, Page A22. PCPO MALACAÑANG PHOTO

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7 books recasting Marcos launched on auspicious day

MARCOS

ON THE SEVENTH day of the seventh month of the seventh year of the millennium, seven books were launched to paint a kinder, gentler portrait of the best-known Filipino with a fixation on the number seven—the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

His family launched the books, which include accounts by his former aides of his years in office, because it was important, his elder daughter said, "that history write both sides of the story, or better yet, write all sides of the story."

Former Rep. Imee Marcos was alluding to the many unfavorable accounts about her father, who was ousted in a People Power revolt in February 1986 and died in exile in Hawaii in 1989.

The Marcoses have been accused of amassing billions of dollars in alleged ill-gotten wealth, and of alleged human rights violations.

The government said it had recovered at least $1.7 billion in cash and assets from the Marcoses and their associates over two decades, including Swiss bank deposits worth at least $680 million.

The books and the Marcos Presidential Center within the National Library were launched on July 7, 2007, because Marcos considered seven his lucky number, his family said.

"It is time that we respect what was past and what was part of our story, and it is time indeed that all these stories be told ... as many times as they need to be told until they are heard," Imee said.

The launching comes at a time when the Marcoses have been recovering some of their seized assets, and seeing the dismissal of ill-gotten wealth cases filed against them.

"This is really bringing out the truth about the Marcoses who I think played a very major role for 20 years in this country's history," Marcos' widow, Imelda, said in a speech at the book launch, attended by her children, grandchildren and former officials of the Marcos government. "The Marcos era ... really set the foundation of our nationhood."

At a press forum on Thursday, she protested the "dictator" tag given to her late husband, calling him "a great democrat" who held 15 elections and plebiscites during his term to consult the people. *AP*

Petron, Shell cut LPG prices

By Abigail L. Ho

PETRON CORP. AND PILIPINAS SHELL Petroleum Corp. slashed their cooking gas prices by 56 centavos per kilogram following the decline in the international contract price of liquefied petroleum gas.

Both oil firms implemented the price adjustment at 12:01 a.m. today.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla had earlier said he expected cooking gas prices to go down in the light of the drop in LPG prices in the international market.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the international contract price of LPG plummeted to only $589 per metric ton (MT) this month, $17 per MT lower than last month's $606 per MT price.

Bulk supplier Liquigaz was the first to implement a price cut, reducing its rates by 55 centavos per kilogram at 12:01 a.m. last Thursday. The price adjustment was inclusive of the 12-percent VAT.

"I welcome the move of Liquigaz to immediately implement a rollback in its LPG prices. We hope that oil majors and other independent players will immediately follow the lead of Liquigaz," Lotilla said.

Since the start of the year, LPG prices have risen five times for a total of P3.36 a kilo, but have also gone down five times for a total of P2.80 a kilo, including VAT.

International prices remained volatile, however, Lotilla said.

The latest LPG price cut brought prices of 11-kg LPG cylinders to between P474.28 and P513.84.

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August 14 Draw (covers July 14 - Aug. 13 usage)
Major : 1 winner of 210,000 Mabuhay Miles (enough for 2 round-trips to as far as Honolulu, Hawaii, USA)
Minor : 3 winners of 24,000 Mabuhay Miles each (valid for 2 round-trips to Cebu/Puerto Princesa/Kalibo/Iloilo/etc.)

October 1 Draw (covers Aug. 14 - Sept. 30 usage)
Major : 1 winner of 250,000 Mabuhay Miles (enough for 2 round-trips to as far as Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas, or Vancouver)
Minor : 3 winners of 39,000 Mabuhay Miles each (valid for 2 round trips to as far as Hong Kong, Taipei, or Xiamen)

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GOVERNMENT-MILF PEACE TALKS

Canada, Sweden want to help

By Edwin O. Fernandez
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—CANADA AND Sweden have expressed a desire to help in the peace negotiations between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

The peace talks are expected to resume in early August.

The MILF, in a statement released Saturday, said a copy of a note verbale from the Canadian government addressed to both the Philippine government and MILF panels in the peace talks was forwarded to MILF chair Ebrahim Murad.

Mohaqher Iqbal, MILF chief peace negotiator, said Canada intended to help in the governance aspect, while Sweden would focus its aid on the humanitarian aspect of the International Monitoring Team which is led by Malaysia.

Malaysia, Indonesia, Libya and Brunei, all members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), had sent over their nationals to monitor the ceasefire agreement between the government and the MILF.

Since the monitors arrived two years ago, clashes between government forces and the MILF have been drastically reduced.

Japan, which joined the monitoring team last year, is focused on the socioeconomic aspect of the peace effort.

Sweden had signified its intention to take part in the peace process before the government and MILF panels reached an impasse in September last year over the issue of territorial domain.

Iqbal said both the government and MILF panels would officially accept Sweden's participation.

On May 2, both panels agreed to resume talks in Kuala Lumpur to resolve the issue of territory, specifically the number of villages to be included in a Bangsamoro Juridical Entity.

The government, however, wanted to wait until after the May 14 elections.

But after the elections, Secretary Silvestre Afable, the chief government negotiator, resigned, causing yet another snag.

Late last month, Malacañang announced the appointment of retired Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia as head of the panel replacing Afable.

Garcia, who has been accepted by the MILF leadership, was quoted as saying that Manila was very eager to resume the peace negotiations.

He said there were "some technical problems" that still had to be addressed before both sides could inform Malaysia of the government's and the MILF's readiness to resume the talks.

Iqbal said the MILF was prepared for the resumption of the talks.

The MILF chief negotiator said the entry of Canada and Sweden would help "erase the cloud of doubt" hovering over the peace talks.

He said other European countries had expressed a willingness to take part in the peace process.

Iqbal said the MILF learned of their interest during informal meetings with representatives of several European countries.

Anti-debt activists hit attempt on life of chapter leader

THE ACTIVIST FREEDOM FROM Debt Coalition (FDC) yesterday condemned an assassination attempt on the leader of the group in Iloilo early Friday morning.

According to FDC president Ana Maria R. Nemenzo, somebody lobbed a grenade at the house of FDC Iloilo chapter chair Romeo Gerochi in the Mandurria district but it did not explode.

Nemenzo condemned the attempt on the lives of Gerochi and his family.

"Gerochi has courageously championed public interest issues and fulfills a vital role in the community. His work must continue. Hence, we urge the Iloilo authorities to investigate this incident immediately and apprehend those who would threaten the safety and security of Gerochi and his family," said Nemenzo in a statement.

She said househelp discovered an object on the second floor terrace near Gerochi's room at about 7 a.m., which turned out to be an M203 40mm grenade. The household recalled hearing a thud at around 2 a.m. and thought it was just a stone thrown at the house.

A dent on the screen door of the terrace might have cushioned the impact of the grenade and prevented it from exploding, the statement said.

Gerochi, an Outstanding Alumnus awardee of the University of the Philippines, has been leading the campaign for the public takeover of Panay Electric Company (Peco) following an Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) directive to refund its 40,000 consumers P2.89 billion for over-charges covering the period February 1996 to December 2005.

Last July, FDC Iloilo wrote the Iloilo city council, urging it to immediately implement the ERC directive. The directive, however, has not been implemented. The FDC renewed its call last week and challenged the newly elected city council to support a takeover of Peco.

Also early last week, FDC Iloilo raised objections to moves of Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas and the city government to privatize the Metro Iloilo Water District (MIWD), stressing that it would "compromise public interest," especially since the water utility was wracked with financial irregularities.

Lagdameo reelected to top CBCP post

By Jerome Aning

JARO ARCHBISHOP ANGEL Lagdameo was reelected yesterday president of the influential Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

Lagdameo was reelected by an overwhelming majority of bishops from 86 dioceses in the country at the start of their two-day plenary assembly at the Pope Pius XII Catholic Center on United Nations Avenue in Paco, Manila.

Former CBCP president and Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz told reporters he was not surprised by Lagdameo's reelection, saying CBCP presidents usually were reelected to a second term.

Under Lagdameo, the CBCP was criticized for not coming out strongly on political issues such as the "Hello, Garci" scandal that nearly toppled the Arroyo administration.

The organization, however, was vocal on other issues such as mining, illegal gambling and, more recently, electoral fraud and the extrajudicial killings.

As president of the CBCP, Lagdameo will also chair the organization's Permanent Council.

The council acts for and in behalf of the entire conference whenever the plenary assembly, which meets only twice a year, is not in session. The body may be convened by the CBCP president at any time.

The council is also mandated to work with the episcopal commissions and assign them functions of urgent character that were not taken up in the plenary.

One of the council's main functions is to prepare joint statements or pastoral letters of the Catholic hierarchy on matters decided upon by the plenary assembly, provided that copies are sent to other members for comment and approval before they are officially released.

CBCP is expected to issue on Monday a pastoral statement on ecclesiastical, moral and sociopolitical issues affecting Filipino Catholics.

Meanwhile, CBCP vice president and Cagayan de Oro Archbishop Antonio Ledesma was replaced by Tandag Bishop Nereo Odchimar. Msgr. Juanito Figura was reelected secretary general and Cubao Bishop Honesto Ongtioco was elected treasurer.

Odchimar, Figura and Ongtionco will also be members of the Permanent Council.

Other Council members serving as regional representatives were also elected. For Luzon, elected were Bayombong Bishop Ramon Villena, San Fernando (Pampanga) Auxiliary Bishop Pablo Siongco David, Parañaque Bishop Jesse Mercado, Virac Bishop Manolo de los Santos and Gumaca Bishop Buenaventura Famadico.

Elected for the Visayas were Bishop Jose Advincula of San Carlos (Negros Occidental) and Archbishop Jose Palma of Palo (Leyte). Bishops Antonieto Cabajog of Surigao and Angelito Lampon of Jolo were elected for Mindanao.

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a story on page A8—"What's keeping Comelec from proclaiming winners"—misstated that there were uncounted election results from Pantar, Lanao del Norte. Special elections in Pantar are still scheduled to be held on July 23.

***

IN THE July 5 issue, a story on page A3—"Pangilinan appeals to Senate colleagues to stop bickering"—misstated the name of Senator Cayetano. His name is Alan Peter—not Peter Allan.

***

IN THE same issue, a story on page A4—"No rest for Namfrel"—misspelled the name of a Comelec commissioner. His name is Florentino Tuason—not Tuazon.

Inquirer writer's ma dies

LETICIA G. SALAZAR, mother of INQUIRER writer Marlet Salazar, died Friday at the age of 75.

She is survived, aside from Marlet, by her husband Marcelo, grandson Mark Vincent and sister Nena Umali.

Her body lies at Manila Funeral Homes at Nicolas Zamora corner Morga Streets, Tondo, Manila. A thanksgiving Mass will be held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday at the Sto. Niño Parish Church in Tondo.

Interment will follow at 4 p.m. at the Manila North Cemetery.

Colleges' tourism programs to get aid

TO GENERATE MORE TOURISM-related jobs in the country, the Philippine Tourism Authority has expressed willingness to provide financial aid to programs aimed at improving the quality of tourism education in colleges and providing extra skills to tourism students.

PTA general manager Robert Dean Barbers said the agency would give seed money for organization endeavors and initial projects of the newly established League of Tourism Students of the Philippines (LTSP).

"I believe that it is high time that we truly professionalize the country's tourism industry and the only way to do it is to produce quality students who are taking up tourism courses," Barbers said during the LTSP launching at the La Consolacion College in Manila last week.

The launch was attended by some 100 tourism student leaders from 11 tertiary schools with the end view of starting a lasting partnership between the government and the private sector to enhance the curriculum and tourism programs to make future tourism practitioners more competitive and relevant to the needs of the industry.

The labor department, in its recent manpower summit, included the tourism sector, particularly the hotel and restaurant industries, among those offering a large number of jobs but having few qualified applicants. *Jerome Aning*

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Sect.2 10am-7pm	(Weekdays)	Aug. 27 - Oct. 16	Nov. 22 - 30
Sect.3 10am-7pm	(Weekdays)	Aug. 27 - Oct. 16	Nov. 22 - 30
Sect.4 10am-7pm	(Weekdays)	Oct. 01 - Nov. 19	Nov. 22 - 30
Sect.5 10am-3pm	(Weekdays)	Oct. 01 - Nov. 21	Nov. 22 - 30
Sect.6 4am-9pm	(Weekdays)	Oct. 01 - Nov. 21	Nov. 22 - 30
Sect.7 10am-3pm	(Daily)	Oct. 15 - Nov. 21	Nov. 22 - 30
Sect.8 4am-9pm	(Daily)	Oct. 15 - Nov. 21	Nov. 22 - 30

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BAGUIO		Oct. 13 - Nov. 8	Nov. 10 - 23
DAGUPAN		Oct. 10 - Nov. 8	Nov. 10 - 23
CEBU	Sec.1	Aug. 03 - Oct. 14	Nov. 16 - 27
	Sec. 2	Oct. 01 - Nov. 12	Nov. 16 - 27
DAVAO	Sec.1	Aug. 17 - Oct.16	Nov. 19 - 29
	Sec. 2	Oct. 01 - Nov. 9	Nov. 19 - 29

CGFNS / NCLEX REVIEW 2007

CGFNS FOR SEPTEMBER EXAM:

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CGFNS FOR NOVEMBER EXAM:

	Comprehensive Review	Intensive Final Coaching Review
MANILA	Oct. 5-18	Nov. 4-13
BAGUIO	Oct. 12-26	Nov. 4-13
DAGUPAN	Oct. 11-22	Nov. 4-13
CEBU	Oct.19-30	Nov. 3-13
DAVAO	Oct. 03-14	Nov. 3-9

(UPDATED REVIEW PROGRAM)

NCLEX:

	Comprehensive Review	Intensive Final Coaching Review
MANILA	Aug. 10-22	Aug. 24-28
CEBU	Aug.4-18	Sept. 19-23

NCLEX:

	Comprehensive Review	Intensive Final Coaching Review	NCLEX MONTHLY IFC: MANILA
MANILA	Oct. 05-18	Sept. 20-24	July 18-22
BAGUIO	Oct. 12-26	Nov. 19-23	Aug. 24-26
DAGUPAN	Oct. 11-22	Nov. 19-23	Sept.20-24
CEBU	Oct.19-30	Nov. 14-18	Oct. 22-26
DAVAO	Oct.03-14	Nov. 24-28	Nov.15-19
			Dec. 8-12

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, July 8, 2007
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Isaiah 66:10-14**

Rejoice, Jerusalem!

Rejoice for Jerusalem and be glad for her, all you who love her. Be glad with her, rejoice with her, all you who were in grief over her, that you may suck of the milk from her comforting breasts, that you may drink deeply from the abundance of her glory.

For this is what Yahweh says: I will send her peace, overflowing like a river; and the nations' wealth, rushing like a torrent towards her.

And you will be nursed and carried in her arms and fondled upon her lap.

As a son comforted by his mother, so will I comfort you. At the sight of this, your heart will rejoice; like grass, your bones will flourish. For it shall be known that Yahweh's hand is with his servant, but his fury is upon his enemy.

2nd Reading: **Galatians 6:14-18**

I bear the marks of Jesus.

For me, I do not wish to take pride in anything except in the cross of Christ Jesus our Lord. Through him the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.

Let us no longer speak of the circumcised and of non-Jews, but of a new creation. Let those who live according to this rule receive peace and mercy: they are the Israel of God! Let no one trouble me any longer: for my part, I bear in my body the marks of Jesus.

May the grace of Christ Jesus our Lord be with your spirit brothers and sisters. Amen.

Gospel: **Luke 10:1-12, 17-20**

The seventy-two disciples.

The Lord appointed seventy-two other disciples and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place, where he himself was to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is rich, but the workers are few. So you must ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers to his harvest. Courage! I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Set off without purse or bag or sandals; and do not stop at the homes of those you know.

"Whatever house you enter, first bless them saying: 'Peace to this house.' If a friend of peace lives there, the peace shall rest upon that person. But if not, the blessing will return to you. Stay in that house eating and drinking at their table, for the worker deserves to be paid. Do not move from house to house.

"When they welcome you in any town, eat what they offer you. Heal the sick who are there and say to them: 'The kingdom of God has drawn near to you.'

"But in any town where you are not welcome, go to the marketplace and proclaim: 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off and leave with you. But know and be sure that the kingdom of God had come to you.' I tell you that on the Judgment Day it will be better for Sodom than for this town."

The seventy-two disciples returned full of joy. They said, "Lord, even the demons obeyed us when we called on your name." Then Jesus replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. You see, I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the Enemy, so that nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, don't rejoice because the evil spirits submit to you; rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven."

Commentary

It is Ordinary Time and rejoicing must be a part of our lives—remembering and taking to heart all that God has done for us, comforting us and providing for us so that we flourish and know his power at work in us and the world. We have been given even God's beloved child and we are baptized and live in the power of the cross and resurrection—we are made utterly new. Do we boast of our marks of being a Christian? Have we ever suffered for what we believe? Have we shared of the excess that is ours? Do we dwell in peace and mercy so that others know that our boasting in the Lord is legitimate?

Jesus sends us out two by two to go before him into the world. We are to go lightly, with only what we need, remembering that we are the peacemakers in a world where people destroy those who do not belong to them. We bring peace as the Good News of God. And what are the fruits of peace?—healing, welcome, sharing. Always we are to be intimations of what is coming—the reign of God's peace with abiding justice for all. We must keep in mind that it is a privilege and an honor to live in the kingdom now and be a part of Jesus' mission to make holy the whole world.

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China drug bust nets Pinoy

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs yesterday issued a stern warning to Filipinos in China against engaging in drug-trafficking following the arrest of a group there that included a Filipino.

The Philippine Embassy in Beijing, in a report to the DFA, said China's Ministry of Public Security cracked a trans-border case where drugs worth some $7.09 million were seized on June 25.

Eight people were arrested, among them a Filipino national the embassy did not identify.

An official of the ministry's Narcotics Control Bureau attributed the successful operation to close police cooperation between the Philippines and China over the past three years.

Such cooperation, the DFA said, resulted in the apprehension of a gang known to be a major drug processor and trafficker in the region.

China's Supreme People's Court, meanwhile, said it would update its judicial interpretation and the penalties under its criminal laws after noting the alarming rise in cases involving illicit drugs such as methadone and ketamine, and the use of tourists and pregnant women as couriers of illegal substances.

The court said it would show no leniency in handing down heavy penalties, including capital punishment, to people convicted of drug crimes.

It also affirmed the death penalty imposed by a lower court on seven Chinese citizens convicted of drug-trafficking.

In two separate cases last month, courts in Shanghai and Guangdong imposed life terms on two Filipino nationals caught bringing illegal drugs into China.

Philippine Ambassador to Beijing Sonia Brady urged Filipinos not to get involved in drug-trafficking in China and to be careful lest they are unwittingly used as couriers by drug syndicates.

"Under the Chinese penal code, anybody caught bringing more than 50 grams of prohibited drugs into China could be sentenced to imprisonment of 15 years to life or death," Brady said.

Laguna apartment yields shabu lab

By Alcuin Papa

A ROUTINE EJECTION FRIDAY NIGHT OF an apartment tenant who had failed to pay his rent led to the discovery of a shabu laboratory in Biñan, Laguna.

Senior Supt. Abe Lemos, area coordinator for the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in Region 4-A, told the INQUIRER the ingredients they found for making methamphetamine hydrochloride were enough to make one ton [just under 1,000 kilos] of the illegal drug with a street value of close to P4 billion.

The ingredients themselves were worth millions and could also be used to produce Ecstasy, a more refined and expensive variant of shabu favored by more affluent party-goers, he said.

Chief Insp. Jess Kabigting of the Philippine National Police Regional Special Operations Group (RSOG) said the police were called to serve a writ of possession on apartment No. 15 at the Honors Apartments in Barangay San Antonio in Biñan.

When the apartment door was opened, the sight of the ingredients greeted the police, who called in the PDEA and the National Bureau of Investigation.

Found were five big white sacks containing a white powder with blue granules, various boxes and crates, six funnels, filters and a rotary evaporator.

"These are definitely drug[-making equipment]," Kabigting said.

A man identified as Tony Tan Go was taken into custody by the police for questioning.

Kabigting said a "big Taiwanese group" was suspected of being behind the laboratory. Police were hunting members of the group, he said.

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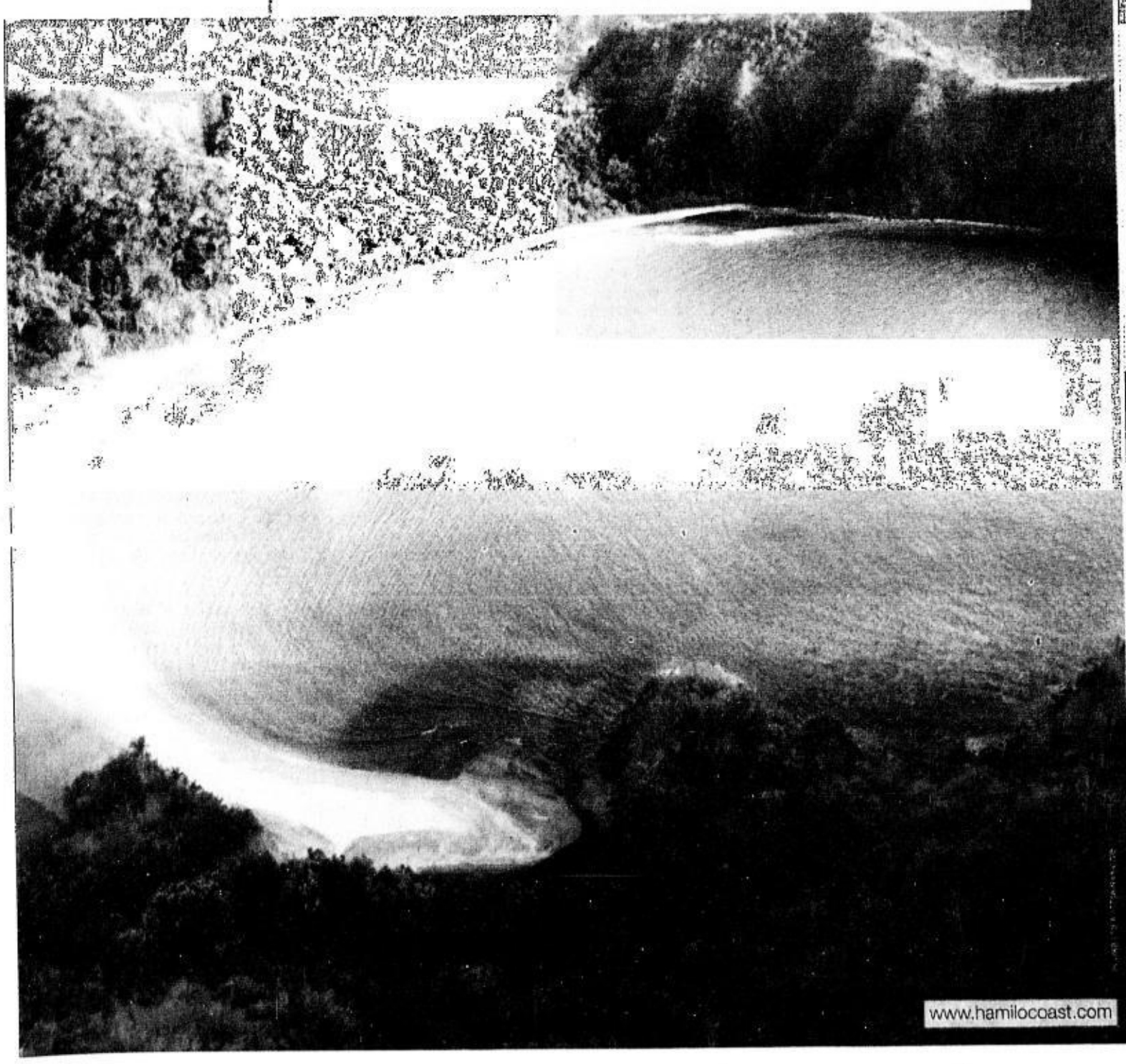

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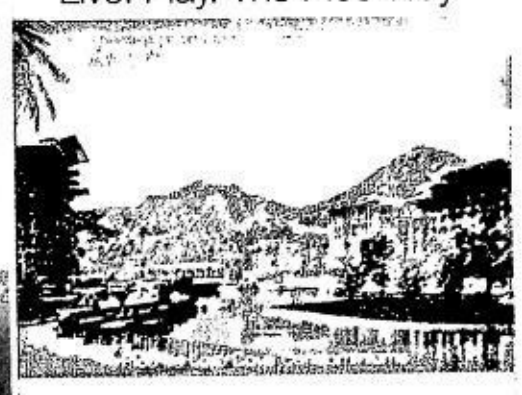

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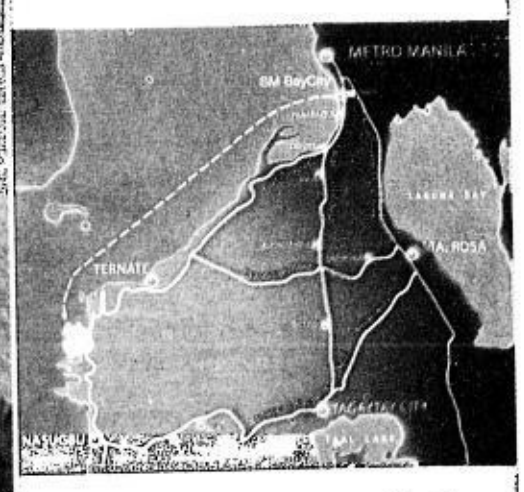

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Bossi photos spark hope he's well

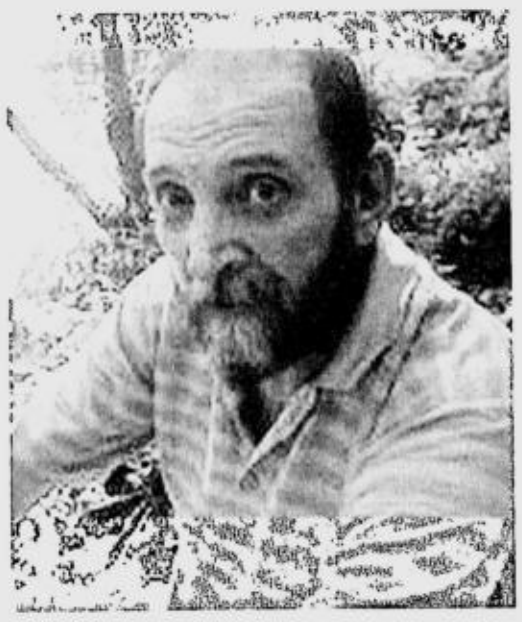
From page A1

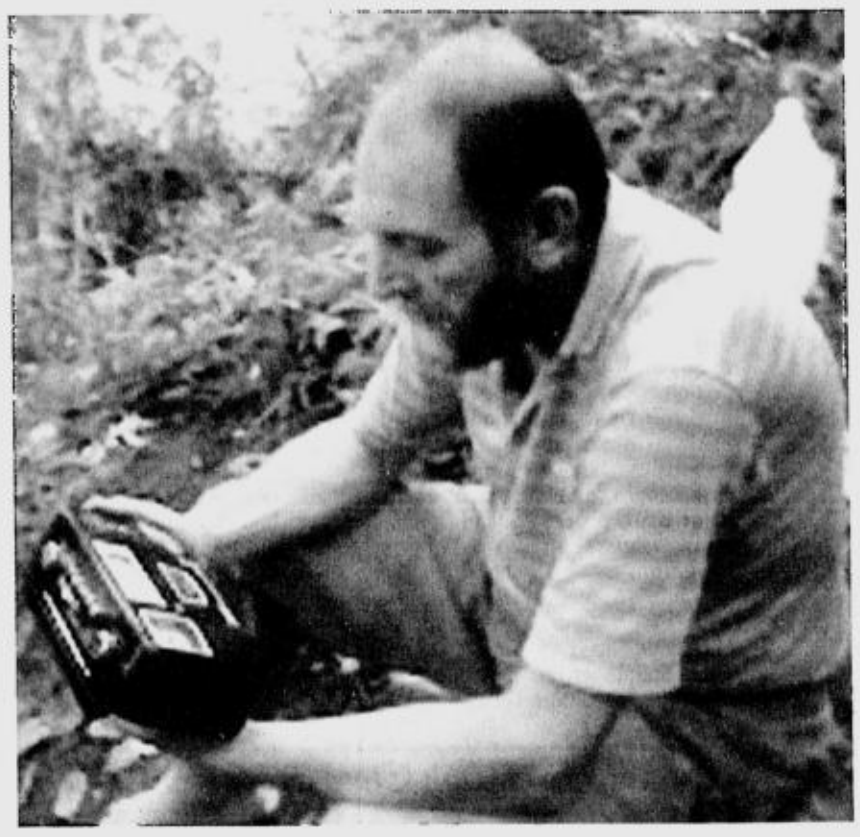
er said. "Obviously, everybody hopes that this will turn out to be hard proof, but they will have to be looked at very closely by experts in the field."

It was Claretian priest Angel Calvo, a close friend of Bossi's, who sent to the INQUIRER two of the four photographs that, he stressed, did not come from Bossi's captors.

"It's indeed Bossi," Calvo said of the man in the photographs. He sent the photos to the INQUIRER via Bluetooth while he was at a closed-door meeting with Boniver and police and military officials involved in the search and rescue operation for the priest.

The pictures, apparently taken with a cell phone, show Bossi in what appeared to be a forested area, looking thin and haggard and wearing the same clothes he had on when he was snatched by gunmen in the coastal town of Payao in Zamboanga Sibugay.





FIRST PHOTOS IN CAPTIVITY: "He has lost a lot of weight," say Fr. Giancarlo Bossi's fellow priests on seeing the undated photos of the Italian priest who was kidnapped on June 10 in Zamboanga Sibugay. They were sent on Thursday to his best friend, Claretian priest Angel Calvo, in Zamboanga City. He said the photos are authentic.

Special day of prayer

Pime has announced plans to hold "a special day of intense prayer" for Bossi on Tuesday, exactly a month after his abduction.

In a July 3 letter issued from Rome, Pime Superior General Gian Battista Zanchi called on the order's members and supporters worldwide to pray for Bossi as well as his abductors.

"I invite all the communities of Pime in the various houses and missions to hold a special day of intense prayer for Father Bossi on July 10... I invite all to pray that the Lord will give [him] abundant courage, hope and patience; that God will touch the hearts of his abductors and that they will repent," Zanchi said in his letter, published on the order's website (http://www.pime.org) and blog (http://pimephilippines.wordpress.com).

Zanchi said that Bossi's family, friends and parishioners continued to wait with hope for news of his release although no one has claimed responsibility for the abduction.

The Pime superior noted that "various initiatives and manifestations have been held and are being planned at different levels" for Bossi's release.

"These manifestations of support and solidarity are most welcome, but let us not forget prayer: We are in the hands of God," Zanchi said, recalling that "the unceasing prayer of the first Christian community was answered with the dispatch of an angel."

National hero in Italy

Boniver and Italian Ambassador to the Philippines Rubens Anna Fedele arrived in Zamboanga Friday night for talks with local officials as part of efforts to secure Bossi's release. They also met with Pime members.

The Italian lawmaker said she was in Zamboanga to "get as much information" as possible about the kidnapping.

"I think [the authorities] are doing very well to secure an early and peaceful release of Father Bossi," she told reporters.

"I am absolutely certain that sooner, rather than later, we would be able to achieve the successful release of Father Bossi," she said, adding that her visit had nothing to do with negotiations for a ransom.

"Obviously, the policy of the Italian government and of the Philippine government and any [other] government in the world is, of course, no talk of ransom whatsoever," Boniver said.

She also said Bossi had become "a sort of a national hero" in Italy: "Everyone speaks about him, and the whole country is following [developments] with trepidation and with much hope, and many prayers for his release," Boniver said.

AP said Boniver was expected to fly back to Italy late Saturday.

Proof of life for P100,000

Calvo said he received the four photos of Bossi on Friday from a man who had come from Barangay Bohe Bessey in Akbar (formerly Tuburan) town, Basilan.

Earlier that day, Calvo had sent a text message to the INQUIRER asking about updates on the Bossi kidnapping.

When told about an encounter on Thursday between government forces and Abu Sayyaf bandits in Akbar, Calvo replied that a man from there had approached him and claimed he had "proof of life" of Bossi, but was "asking for P100,000."

He refused to identify the man.

The INQUIRER called Brig. Gen. Ramiro Alivio, commander of the 1st Marine Brigade, to check if he had received information about emissaries bringing some sort of proof of life.

But Alivio said that in Basilan, there were "many people mushrooming now, pretending to be informants, claiming to have in possession proof of life in exchange for cash."

Senior Supt. Francisco Cristobal, police chief of Zamboanga Sibugay, also said as much—that people were "providing information about sightings and leads, but nothing substantial so far."

'He appears OK'

Col. Jovencio Magalso, chief of Task Force Bossi, said he, too, had received reports about sightings and demands for Bossi's "board and lodging fee."

But he said these were "simply reports, no confirmation."

At around 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Calvo told the INQUIRER that he was able to get hold of photos of Bossi, which he said were sent to him via Bluetooth.

"He appears OK in the pictures with a green background, which, I presume, is a forest," Calvo said.

He said he received the photos from the same man who had come to see him.

"According to this fellow, he also gave copies to the [Philippine National Police] in Manila," Calvo said.

Pime regional superior Fr. Gianni Sandalo declined to comment when asked on Friday evening if the photos could be considered proof of life.

Magalso told the INQUIRER yesterday morning that they got hold of the photos on Friday night.

"But we cannot declare outright that it's Bossi in the absence of authentication from experts," Magalso said.

The photos supposedly started circulating on Friday, the day Boniver arrived in Zamboanga to meet with military and police officials involved in the search and rescue operations for Bossi. ***With a report from Jerome Aning in Manila***

The only Pinoy (or Pinay) in Tonga tilt

From page A1

because it encompasses both sexes—or, rather, it features transsexual contestants.

This year, one of the friendly competition's favored contestants was a Filipino (or a Filipina, as the case may be) named Jonathan Legaspi, who competed as "Erica."

Erica was entered in the three-day competition, a traditional highlight of Tonga's tourist season, as Miss Billfish Bar and Restaurant.

On July 7, however, competitor Rasa, who was billed as Miss Tonga New Zealand South Seas, was crowned this year's winner. Rasa is Douglas Tania in real life.

A website in Tonga described the pageant as "a famous fixture on the Tonga festival calendar because the contestants are fakaleitis, young men dressed up as women. Flaunting names like 'Sweet Leilani,' they model their own bizarre, fantastic and grotesque creations, their well-built shoulders supporting fantastic fairy wings. Balancing on high heels they show off well-muscled legs, while flirting with the audience."

All the fun, however, has a serious side.

Joey Mataele, chair of the Tonga Leiti's Association, said the contest was all about promoting equality. It enjoyed support in Tonga, another website quoted him as saying, because family life in the kingdom was more important than anything else.

The Miss Galaxy pageant, held annually during the Heilala Festival in July, has been sponsored for the last five years by Air New Zealand; according to organizers, it is the only transsexual pageant the airline supports.

On the first day of the competition, the candidates were judged in two categories: Own Creation and International Wear.

On the second day, the candidates competed in the Hat Creation and Talent portions.

Three categories crowded the final night: Evening Gown, Galaxy Wear and Interview.

P1.5-B school launches ...

From page A1

Dael said the school has a "study now, pay later" plan where students may enroll without having to pay all the tuition up front.

He said the tuition ranges from P70,000 to P75,000 per semester, which includes board and lodging.

He said 90 percent of the 120 students who belong to the first batch of NTMA enrollees had availed themselves of student loans.

Postor, 17, was able to enroll at NTMA because of a scholarship from NYK-Fil Ship Management Inc. (NYK-Fil), one of the biggest manning agencies for seafarers in the country.

Dael said the establishment of the school was actually the brainchild of NYK-Fil, which provides seafarers for NYK.

Healthy environment

Located at the foot of scenic Mt. Makiling, the school offers a healthy environment for students.

Aside from the school's five buildings, it also has a 10-foot deep large swimming pool which allows students to have real-life "on sea activities" like operating a lifeboat.

Dael said because of their commitment to develop highly skilled seafarers, the school installed state-of-the-art equipment to better prepare their students for their shipboard training.

In addition to dummy engine rooms of ships, laboratories and classrooms required in maritime schools, NTMA built a modern bridge which allows students to experience what it is like to navigate a ship.

A bridge is the "cockpit" of large sea vessels where the navigation room for the captain and his crew is located.

Situated on the third floor of the Mariner's Building, a building built to look like a ship, the mock bridge has five projector screens which move as the student navigates the ship.

First of its kind

Dael said their bridge simulator is the first of its kind in the country.

"In an instant, a student can navigate through the Singapore Strait or any other location in the world. It is as close as real bridges," he explained.

The school also has a fully operational engine room, speech laboratories, radar room, computer room and 12 classrooms.

Designed to be a boarding school, NTMA has 90 rooms which can accommodate 360 students at a time.

He said unlike other schools, NTMA will limit its students to only 120 per school year.

As a four-year college course, students are required to take up three years of academic schooling and one year of shipboard training.

At present, the school offers the BS Marine Transportation course for those who want to be ship captains and BS Marine Engineering for cadets aspiring to become chief engineers.

Dael said apart from their academic load, students enrolled at NTMA are also required to spend two-hour reading session in the library.

On school days, the cadets should likewise complete a two-hour duty as guards.

Dael said this is to discipline the students and prepare them for the life of a seafarer.

He said NYK had also ordered the construction of four ships just for the use of their students.

Job demand

A few years back, NYK-Fil saw the increasing demand for seamen as a result of the construction of new sea vessels worldwide.

Dael explained that the imminent lack of ship personnel was based on a five-year study done by the Baltic International Maritime Council (BIMCO), the world's biggest organization of private shipping companies.

He said for NYK alone, there would be 10,000 new job offerings as the company's current fleet of 750 ships would be increased by around 130 ships.

This means that students of NTMA are assured of jobs after graduation, he said.

Most popular

"Shipping remains to be the most popular, most practical and safest mode of transporting goods today," he said.

And Dael said the prospects for a better life for Filipino seafarers were high because "Filipinos remain to be the nationality of choice of foreign shipping lines." ***(See Global Pinoy, Page A23.)***

As of 2005, Filipinos accounted for more than 28 percent of all maritime officers employed by shipping companies.

A far second were Russians who make up 6.8 percent of the total seafarers in the world.

P1.7-B remittance

Dael said records from government agencies showed that Filipino seamen remitted more than $1.7 billion last year.

He said only the demand for nurses topped seafarers among the opportunities open to Filipinos abroad.

A starting third mate (the lowest rank of merchant marine officer) receives an average monthly salary of $1,500 to $1,800.

A ship captain, on the other hand, gets $4,000 to $6,000 a month.

Postor said he still could not believe that he's only a few years away from achieving his life-long dream.

The school will be conducting entrance exams for the second batch of NTMA students on Oct. 27. Interested individuals may contact the school at 049-549-0923 and 049-549-0933.

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Cheche makes a difference ...

From page A1

longest-running investigative journalism TV show, "The Probe Team," Lazaro was cited for "consistently upholding the highest standards of professionalism and for guarding and promoting integrity in the broadcast industry, where commercial ratings have time and again compromised both the content and form of television shows, including news and current affairs."

In her lecture, Lazaro discussed the challenges faced by television in the midst of "a changing landscape," and discussed best practices for media practitioners.

"Today, surveys tell us that TV is now the main source of information, with radio and print trailing behind it. It has also become the most credible," she said, adding that the findings were "interesting" now that TV has been criticized as being "sensational, arrogant and biased."

"To be sure, the medium is faced with many problems and challenges because of a changing landscape, and the keen competition that keeps the gatekeepers on their toes to stay alive," Lazaro said.

She said the "obsession" with ratings was one such problem: "In some cases, it has become the end-all and be-all. When competition was narrowed down to two stations, it took on more prominence and performance trackers kept an eagle eye on the numbers."

While admitting that ratings were a good indicator of who was watching, she said there was also a downside to this obsession.

"If you get caught in the vortex of a ratings tornado, you end up producing programs and adding elements just to rate, and many good stories can fall by the wayside," said Lazaro.

"They say that competition keeps us alert and on our toes. While that is certainly a good way to keep the adrenaline pumping, it also pressures us to do things that, under normal circumstances, we would find to be in poor taste," she said.

Exclusives

Lazaro also commented on the current TV trend of airing "exclusives."

"We now think in terms of exclusives—our newscasts are punctuated by exclusives. Perhaps again it is time to review what the intrinsic value of an exclusive is and, more importantly, how our choices of exclusives affect the audiences who watch us," she said.

Lazaro cited as examples the breakup of Filipino entertainment personality Ruffa Gutierrez and her Turkish husband Yilmaz Bektas and a hair-pulling incident, both of which had been highlighted in the news as "exclusives."

"It may be worthwhile to ask ourselves: What value does hair-pulling have as a news story, aside from the riveting human drama of two women tearing at each other's hair?" she said, adding:

"Are we doing this just to attract our audience, or keep up with competition? Is there a lesson to be learned?"

These "tabloid TV news stories" are reports that "focused on the details and blew them up," Lazaro said.

"Like the hair-pulling incident and the Ruffa-Yilmaz story, details were blown up and milked for all [they were] worth. The tabloid news has become the norm," she said.

'Idiotizing' the audience

Remarking on the way news is being delivered on TV, Lazaro said:

"When reading the news, words are heavily punctuated in the same manner that you would announce a major catastrophe. I find it personally difficult to reconcile this mode of delivery with the basic characteristic of television. Because of the intimacy of the medium, you enter into the private spaces of your audience. I say it is a conversation you want to engender, not a lecture, or a speech."

WOMAN ON TOP: Che-Che Lazaro is founder and driving force behind the first and longest-running investigative journalism show. PDI PHOTO

She noted that TV had been held "responsible for the 'idiotization' of our generation."

"We admit that TV has many mistakes that need to be corrected. But there are rapid changes happening even as we speak, and as practitioners, we have no choice but to cope and improve," she said, referring to technological advances that had rendered radio, TV and print "old technology."

Equating the proliferation of innovations such as the Web, e-mail, blogs, podcasts and text messaging, among others, to the advent of TV or the invention of the Gutenberg press, Lazaro said the effects of these technologies were "much larger and more pervasive."

"If in the past, you needed a lot of money to set up a television network, the new technology now available to all of us is almost free," she said, adding that it had also empowered ordinary citizens and small groups.

Lazaro cited ABS-CBN's recent "Boto Mo, iPatrol Mo" campaign as an example of how ordinary citizens could be on-the-spot sources of news.

"Using their [cell phones] as cameras, [they were] instant one-man crews and reporters in the field," she said.

But she raised concerns about the truthfulness of content from these new media: "Who gets the story and how do we check if what is up there is true? What protection do you have under the law if someone maligns you on the Web?"

Convergence

And what are the possible effects of these new media on traditional media?

"It means that the formerly well-defined boundaries between the 'Big 3'—print, radio and TV—have now blurred. The buzzword is 'convergence,'" Lazaro said, noting how newspaper articles were now appearing on the Web, and how radio could now also be seen on TV and heard online.

"Our audience, once wholly captive to us, is now faced with a multiplicity of choices. That's where our current challenge lies—how to stay relevant in the face of these new options," she said.

Eventually, the bottom line is substance, according to Lazaro.

"No matter how technologically advanced we become, or have access to as many options within our reach, the core values of fairness, balance, accuracy and restraint—values that are as old as the Gutenberg press—overarches even the freedom of expression that we repeatedly invoke as journalists. These values need to be burned into the consciousness of each one of us in the practice of journalism," she said.

A former professor herself at the UP CMC for over 20 years, Lazaro also addressed media educators in her lecture.

"It is not fair for us to criticize what we see or hear on the air without looking at ourselves and the manner in which we shape our contribution to the industry. The mind-set and consciousness we encourage should focus on what is important—integrity, context and relevance," she said.

In the midst of new options, she said, the "power to set the agenda" still belonged to the mainstream media: "[The] power to remain dominant depends largely on how credible, useful and valuable we make our content to [be]."

IN THE KNOW

Gawad Plaridel

SINCE JULY 2004, THE UNIVERSITY OF the Philippines' College of Mass Communication has presented four outstanding media practitioners with the Gawad Plaridel.

The award is named after the hero Marcelo H. del Pilar, whose nom de plume was Plaridel, and who was the steward of the reformist paper La Solidaridad that helped form nationalist sentiment and democratic ideas in the 1890s.

Potential recipients of the award are measured according to Del Pilar's stance—that the media should be socially responsible, critical and vigilant, liberative and transformative, and free and independent.

The past awardees were INQUIRER founding chair Eugenia Duran Apostol for her contribution to print journalism, actress (and now governor of Batangas) Vilma Santos for her contribution to film, and Fidela "Tiya Dely" Magpayo for her contribution to radio.

This year's awardee, Cecilia "Cheche" Lazaro, was cited for her contribution to television.

The Gawad Plaridel trophy, sculpted by National Artist Napoleon Abueva, depicts Del Pilar holding a pen in his right hand and a swirling page of La Solidaridad in his left. *Schatzi Quodala, Inquirer Research*

Sick boy started it all ...

From page A1

Rosal initially helped out in the blood donation drives launched by American Ray Higgins after her experience with the sick boy. On July 4, 1950, she officially joined the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) as a volunteer member and embarked on her humanitarian crusade.

Initially, fellow actors tried to dissuade her from volunteering with the PNRC. "They were discouraging me. *Sabi sa akin, 'Nag-iisa ka. Wala kang magagawa* (They told me, you are alone. There is nothing you can do).' But that did not discourage me. I went on. Up to now, I have dedicated my life. They were discouraging me. Yet I was able to do something," she said.

Favorite pinup girl

At the height of the Korean War, she was the favorite pinup girl and—at times—entertainer of the soldiers, writing them letters, sending them crates of dried fish and going to Korea to do shows.

When the Korean War ended in 1953, she found out that the widows of Filipino soldiers who died in the war had no money to go to Manila to claim the bodies of their husbands. She decided to help them.

LVN Productions had then produced a movie titled "Korea." As a contract star of LVN, Rosal used her influence to convince the movie outfit's bosses to hold a fund-raising event where the proceeds would be given to the war widows.

"I had the entire Rizal Avenue (in Manila) closed. I got the Air Force, the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Army to march. It was really a big event. I was able to raise I don't know how much, but it was enough that I was able to give to the widows of the war," Rosal said.

Operation Blood Brother

She said she never allowed her movie career to get in the way of her volunteer work with the PNRC. Each time her services were needed, she would readily give in and leave even while shooting a film.

In one instance, she narrated, while shooting the movie "Badjao," a 1957 classic Filipino film where she portrayed a tribal princess-bride, the American Embassy sent a helicopter to pick her up to supervise a blood donation drive.

It was through Rosal that the PNRC, with her as a member of the board of governors, was able to launch "Operation Blood Brother" in 1975.

Rosal relates: "*Kasi* when I went to a certain hospital *nakita ko iyong mga pasyente pinauuwi, so sinabi ko, 'Bakit ninyo sila pinauuwi?' Ang sabi sa akin, 'Rosa hindi naman sila puwede kasi wala namang dugo.'* So that did it (When I went to a certain hospital, I saw that the patients were being told to go home. So I said, 'Why are you sending them home?' They told me, 'Rosa, they cannot avail of blood because there is no more supply.' So that did it)."

Her dedication would take her to anywhere there was a supply of blood.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

VOLUNTEERISM PERSONIFIED: Rosal Rosal, also a movie icon, is one of the most valuable assets of the Red Cross.

"I talked to the commander of Clark Air Base. The Vietnam War was over by then. They did not want to give me blood. But when I explained to them, and they found out that I was a movie actress and yet I was doing all of this work, they went out of the way for me," she said.

She said the Clark episode actually gave birth to "Operation Blood Brother."

Under the program, American officers and soldiers donated blood for patients in Manila hospitals. Rosal would go around Manila's hospitals to check how many patients needed blood, then would drive to Clark to get the needed supply of plasma, then drive back to Manila to deliver it to hospitals.

Strict testing due to AIDS

Her weekly routine lasted for several years. It stopped in the early 1980s, at the outbreak of the Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) disease.

The blood supply then came to a trickle due to the strict blood testing required. But Rosal was unfazed and worked to obtain equipment to enable the PNRC to test blood.

"When AIDS broke out, when I found out, I was able to get from the Australian Embassy $50,000. After a week, the French Embassy gave me a whole machine," she said, adding that these generous international donations had enabled the PNRC to be "well-equipped" with blood-testing machines. "In fact, the World Health Organization (WHO) has told the PNRC that it has laboratories at par with any other blood bank in the world."

Rosal said that apart from taking blood and giving blood donations, she got to open a clinical laboratory that gave the poor a chance to have their blood tested at cheaper rates.

"Initially, they (PNRC) did not want to give that to me. 'That's not part of the blood laboratory,' they said. I told them, 'I have the equipment already. I bought this already. They threatened to pack them up just to get rid of me. But then WHO gave me the license," she said.

Apheresis center

Currently, Rosal is working on launching an apheresis donation center for the PNRC. In an apheresis donation, donors give only blood components such as platelets, plasma, red cells, white cells or a combination of these depending on the blood type.

A single apheresis donation of platelets can provide as many platelets as five whole blood donations and reduces the chances of an immune system reaction to the transfusion.

"It does not cost a lot of money. We only charge P12,000 per unit compared to P30,000 to P55,000 per unit of blood," Rosal said.

No to politics

Asked why she never ran for public office, Rosal told the INQUIRER: "*Kanya-kanyang* calling *iyan eh*. You know the Red Cross is apolitical so *sila, maski sino maupo, kaibigan*. I can ask whatever I want."

She said that several presidents had been generous to her and the PNRC, giving cash donations for the procurement of equipment and facilities.

"If I'm a politician, everything will be limited. I really need to be apolitical," she stressed, adding this was necessary to save lives.

She related one incident during a failed coup try against former President Corazon Aquino where a colonel needed help because he had been shot.

"He told me, 'Before you help me, I just want you to know that I belong to the other side (of the government). I told him, 'It does not matter. We will help whoever is in need,'" she said.

Even members of the New People's Army (NPA) have allowed her to undertake voluntary work in the areas they control.

Family acceptance

Through the years, members of her family have accepted her selfless humanitarian service. Rosal said that they may sometimes ask her to reconsider going on "dangerous" missions.

"I think it's a calling. I'm never afraid. Like in a coup d' etat and in a storm when an amphibian tank I was riding overturned. I thought that was it. Of course, my mother was so scared because she heard (the news) over the radio. There were no cellular phones yet, but that never scared me. When I got home, my mother was crying. It just came to a point that she could not stop me anymore," she said.

She said that at the height of a coup d' etat in the late 1980s, her worried grandson asked her, "Do you have to go?

"I told him, 'Somebody has to be there to help,'" she tearfully recounted, pointing out that it was at that point that members of her family have come to accept her "calling."

"It is my life. I will retire when I am six feet under. After 57 years, *ang dream ko na lamang ay sana maabot ko ang 60 years pa* (my dream is to reach 60 years of service)," Rosal said, and citing again that boy at the PGH who completely changed her life.

How sweet it is ...

From page A1

Dagohoy's achievements are "precisely what the trade talks between the Philippines and the European Union are all about: [Filipino products] making breakthroughs in EU markets."

MacDonald and party rode on Thursday for over an hour, partly on rough roads and between vast canefields, from Bacolod to an upland farming village in La Castellana town—an area once regarded as rebel territory.

The Scottish diplomat, who listened to the farmers' proud testimonials in Ilonggo with the help of an interpreter, congratulated them on running "one of the more successful" EC-supported projects in the country.

Among the speakers was Dagohoy, project manager of the Naguislod Farm Workers Association, one of the 10 groups managing collective farms in Negros Occidental and Oriental, for which Alter Trade used the EC grant. The farmers are mostly agrarian reform beneficiaries.

Alter Trade employs local agriculturists to teach the former hacienda workers how to "heal" their land. Decades of monocropping and the heavy use of synthetic fertilizers—just so the sugar barons could meet their production targets—had left the Negros soil too "acidic" for other crops to grow.

Central to this healing process is the use of natural fertilizers and pest control solutions, as well as the gradual development of other agribusinesses.

Alter Trade farmers, for instance, have learned to make a concoction of *kangkong* leaves, wild potatoes, banana trunk pith and a dash of muscovado to produce "insect attractants" that draw bugs away from the vegetable plots they now also cultivate on a smaller scale.

'Zero chemicals'

The Alter Trade network includes a company that supplies the farms certified organic fertilizers, a mill that processes and packages the muscovado, and a marketing arm that finds local and foreign buyers for the sweetener that, with the rise of the refined sugar industry since the 1920s, had been derided as "the dirty, poor man's sugar."

But do you know how the brown or white sugar you put in your coffee is actually made?

Turning cane juice into brown sugar requires "seven chemicals," and into white sugar, "a total of 21 chemicals," said Arnel Ligahon, Dagohoy's companion in the Paris trip and a manager at the muscovado mill run by Alter Trade Manufacturing Inc. (Atmi), one of the network members.

While muscovado may be more expensive per kilo than refined sugar, it has "zero chemicals," Ligahon told the INQUIRER on Wednesday at the Atmi plant in Barangay Calumangan, Bago City.

On the white board in his office on that day were columns of numbers reflecting the plant's deliveries from January to June—812.5 tons so far, of which 54 percent was sent to Europe, 28 percent to Japan, 4 percent to Korea, and .25 percent to Malaysia. The remaining 13.75 percent was sold locally.

Doing the math

From the 300 to 400 tons that made up the total volume of orders that the plant recorded in 1994, the annual demand for its muscovado in local and foreign markets has swelled to around 1,800 tons, Ligahon said.

One of Atmi's suppliers of sugar cane, the Alter Trade-backed Sta. Rita Farmers Association (Starfa) in Barangay Dulao, has long done the math and seen the wisdom of using organic fertilizers.

According to Analyn Escanes, an agriculturist overseeing the training of Starfa's 73 members, a hectare planted to sugarcane typically requires 14 bags (at 50 kilos each) of commercial fertilizers costing between P14,000 and P15,000.

The same area needs about 32 bags of organic fertilizers, including crushed sugar cane that can be had for free, being the waste product of sugar mills—all costing just under P6,000.

Starfa chair Torino Tomaro said his organization, which last year posted P1.6 million in gross earnings off the 20 hectares planted to organic sugar cane, had sharply lifted the living conditions of ex-hacienda workers like himself.

Its members who work the collective farm are paid P100 a day for an eight-hour shift, but they receive dividends and can apply for microloans to buy a tricycle or maintain a backyard business like a piggery or a vegetable garden, he said.

Some 80 percent of the members have saved enough to engage in some form of enterprise outside Starfa, renovated their ramshackle homes, bought household appliances—and, like Tomaro, sent children to college.

No more dead season

And Alter Trade farmers no longer have to experience *tiempos muertos*, or the dead season—the dreaded cycle of penury for Negrenses whose lives still depend solely on the sugar industry.

In the local lingo, the term refers to the period between the planting season (starting in April) and the harvest season (September).

During that period when work and the sugar mills grind to a halt, the jobless farmhand generally accepts any work left in the towns to keep his/her family from starving.

The men become construction workers or tricycle drivers; the women take in laundry or serve as housemaids.

It is during *tiempos muertos* that the crime rate or the number of beggars rises in Negros, said Ted Lopez, executive director of the Alter Trade Foundation Inc.

"This is the condition you get when you try to plant every inch of land to sugarcane," Lopez said, recalling the period from the '50s to the '70s when sugar was the Philippines' top dollar earner and the sugar barons made maximum use of their land.

Diversified food basket

Alter Trade's long-term goal is to help develop Negros from a monocrop economy into a diversified food basket.

Negros Occidental records show that as of 2001, the province was "importing" 90 percent of its vegetables from as far as Benguet, as well as 50-60 percent of its rice requirements.

"We are a net importer of everything but sugar," said Jose Ma. Valencia, chief of staff of Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Maranon.

But the latest figures show an improvement, with the province now almost self-sufficient in rice and its vegetable import ratio down to just over 50 percent, he said.

About 43 percent of the agricultural area still grows sugarcane, but the rest has given space for rice, coconut, banana, mango, watermelon, lanzones and durian.

DOT won't issue spa permit

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism yesterday said it would not issue a permit to the South Korean firm that planned to put up a spa at Taal volcano.

"Our policy is not to issue any such permit. Because of the nature of the area as a permanent danger zone, Taal is really just for sightseeing," Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano told reporters on the sidelines of the 15th Philippine International Franchise Conference and Expo in Pasay City.

If Jung Ang Interventures Corp. applies for an endorsement or permit from the DOT, the application would be rejected, Durano said.

"Tourists are supposed to stay there only temporarily to view [the volcano]. Even personnel from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology do not stay there," he said.

Durano denied reports the DOT had conspired with other government agencies to grant a permit to Jung Ang's P72-million spa project.

The only document the DOT issued to the firm, he said, was a certification that Taal was a tourist spot.

"That's what they were asking for and it's part of our job to issue that," he said.

Durano said the DOT welcomed foreigners who want to invest in volcano tourism but active volcanoes like Taal were off-limits.

He said there was a spa operating near Mount Pinatubo that uses the lahar or pyroclastic material from the volcano in its treatments.

Such a facility was relatively safe, he explained, because it was not on the volcano itself and, unlike Taal, there was no danger of Pinatubo erupting again in the near future. *Jerome Aning*

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Singapore

Sa pakikipagtulungan ng Globe at SingTel, masayang idinaos ang Phil. Independence Day celebration sa Singapore. Pormal na binuksan ito ni Ambassador Belen Anota at Event Chair Pastor Alex Milan.

Masayang pinalakpakan ng mga manonood sina Erik Santos, Nikki Gil, Mitch Valdez at True Faith.

Italy

Sa Italy, nagbigay ng welcome remarks si Labor Attache Manuel Roldan upang pormal na buksan ang pagdiriwang.

Pagkatapos ay masayang binahagi ng sexy comedienne na si Giselle Sanchez ang Globe gift items sa manonood. Matatamis na ngiti ang sinukli ng ating mga Kababayan sa Pinoy show na handog ng Globe sa pakikipagtulungan sa TFC.

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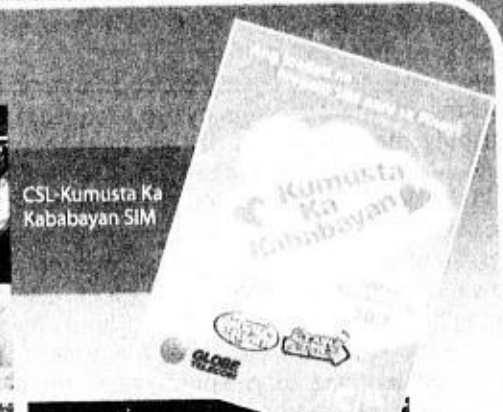
Hong Kong

Handog ng Globe at CSL ang Free Kamustahan Concert sa Chater Garden na tinampukan nina Erik Santos, Yeng Constantino, Mitch Valdez at bandang True Faith.

Nandoon din sina Consul Gen Al Vicente at Globe Consumer Wireless Business Group Head Ferdz Dela Cruz upang personal na batiin ang ating mga kababayan sa Hong Kong.



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United States of America

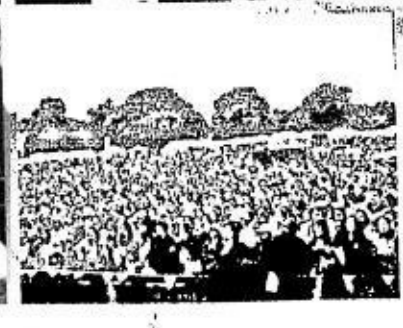
The One Ayala team strikes a pose at the Globe booth during the Fiesta Filipina and Kamustahan sa America events in the US. Kasapi dito ang mga representatives from AyalaLand, BPI at Globe.

Ang One Ayala ay handog ng tatlong kumpanya upang suklian ang malaking kontribusyon ng mga Pilipino sa buong mundo.

United Kingdom

Sa United Kingdom naman, pinangunahan ni Ambassador Edgardo Espiritu, KASAPI-UK Chair Teresita Juco, KASAPI-UK Executive Director for Program and Entertainment Consuelo Farochilen at Mayor ng Merton na si John Dehaney ang Philippine Independence Day celebration doon.

Sobrang natuwa ang mga kababayan natin sa pagdating ng komedyanteng si Allan K.



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Insecurity

EDITORIAL

SPEAK FIRST, THINK LATER: THAT SEEMS TO BE the motto of Raul Gonzalez and Norberto Gonzales, the two most unsettling—and unsettled—members of the President's official family. The two produce an endless amount of news stories that keep the administration in the public eye—and under a cloud of public suspicion. The latest from the two concerns the so-called Human Security Act (HSA): Gonzalez says it can be used to tap the phones of journalists; Gonzales says the law can be used to classify political enemies as terrorists.

If any proof were needed that the two are speaking without thinking, it's the admission by the administration that it is rushing the completion of the "Implementing Rules and Regulations" (IRR) of that Act. The devil, as they say, is in the details. It's bad enough that despite the law coming into effect, a massive information campaign as to its provisions has yet to take place. Even worse is that the justice secretary and the (acting) defense secretary are issuing fire-breathing statements without anyone having a chance to scrutinize either the law or the IRR.

Besides the President herself, the public face of her administration includes the members of her official family. When we speak of Cabinet secretaries being alter egos of the President, it means that what they do and say are significant by virtue of the authority and prestige conferred by their appointments. Without the confidence of the chief executive, Cabinet officials are nothing, politically and administratively speaking—they wouldn't even have their jobs. But more than that, Cabinet members are entrusted with authority because no president can do everything: there is much that must be delegated, if the business of governance is to go on.

The primary duty for implementing the HSA must therefore be assigned to the Cabinet. And this is what presents a grave cause for concern as the law's coming into effect looms. We do not think that acting Defense Secretary Gonzales is really in a position to do much harm, for example. It would be more prudent to assume that his appointment is merely a reward meant to tickle his vanity. However, if our assumption is correct, it does not speak highly either of the President's criteria for major Cabinet appointments, or her attitude toward the public as a controversial law comes into effect. She is saying, in effect, she doesn't care about public opinion, much less reassuring anxious sectors of the public.

As for the secretary of justice, though talk is rife that his days are numbered, we doubt that even if this were true, he'd be out of a job before the HSA goes into effect. Again, this sends the signal that on the eve of the implementation of a controversial law, the most controversial, intemperate, injudicious secretary of justice in Philippine history will be the President's point man.

Who can blame the public, then, for the feeling of national insecurity the HSA is fostering? Congress, particularly the Senate, and to a much lesser extent, the House, at least took pains to reassure the public it would include safeguards to prevent the use of the law for tyrannical purposes. But Congress has done its part; the rest lies in the hands of the chief executive; the only assurance the public has is that the courts, thus far, have stood their ground in the face of executive abuses of power.

While the public may retain its faith in the courts as the ultimate bulwark of the rights and liberties of the citizenry, it knows full well that the Palace, given an inch, can take a mile. The Palace's aggressiveness in this regard ends up compounded by the paranoia—the siege mentality—that is its defining characteristic. A mentality, we might add, that is compounded precisely by the hostility of officials such as Gonzales and Gonzalez when it comes to all the other institutions with which the executive department is supposed to work, but hardly ever does.

Under normal circumstances, our government's institutions should foster not only amity and cooperation, but also reasonableness, among each other. In the past, Cabinet secretaries would have kept lines of communication open to all the major institutions of government and the significant sectors of the public. Before inter-institutional rivalries or disagreements could get out of hand, members of the Cabinet would have been able to get the advice and opinions of the Supreme Court, of the House, the Senate, civil society, the armed forces, media, and so on. Today, so many bridges have been burned by people like Gonzales and Gonzalez that the Palace exists in isolation—which breeds paranoia.

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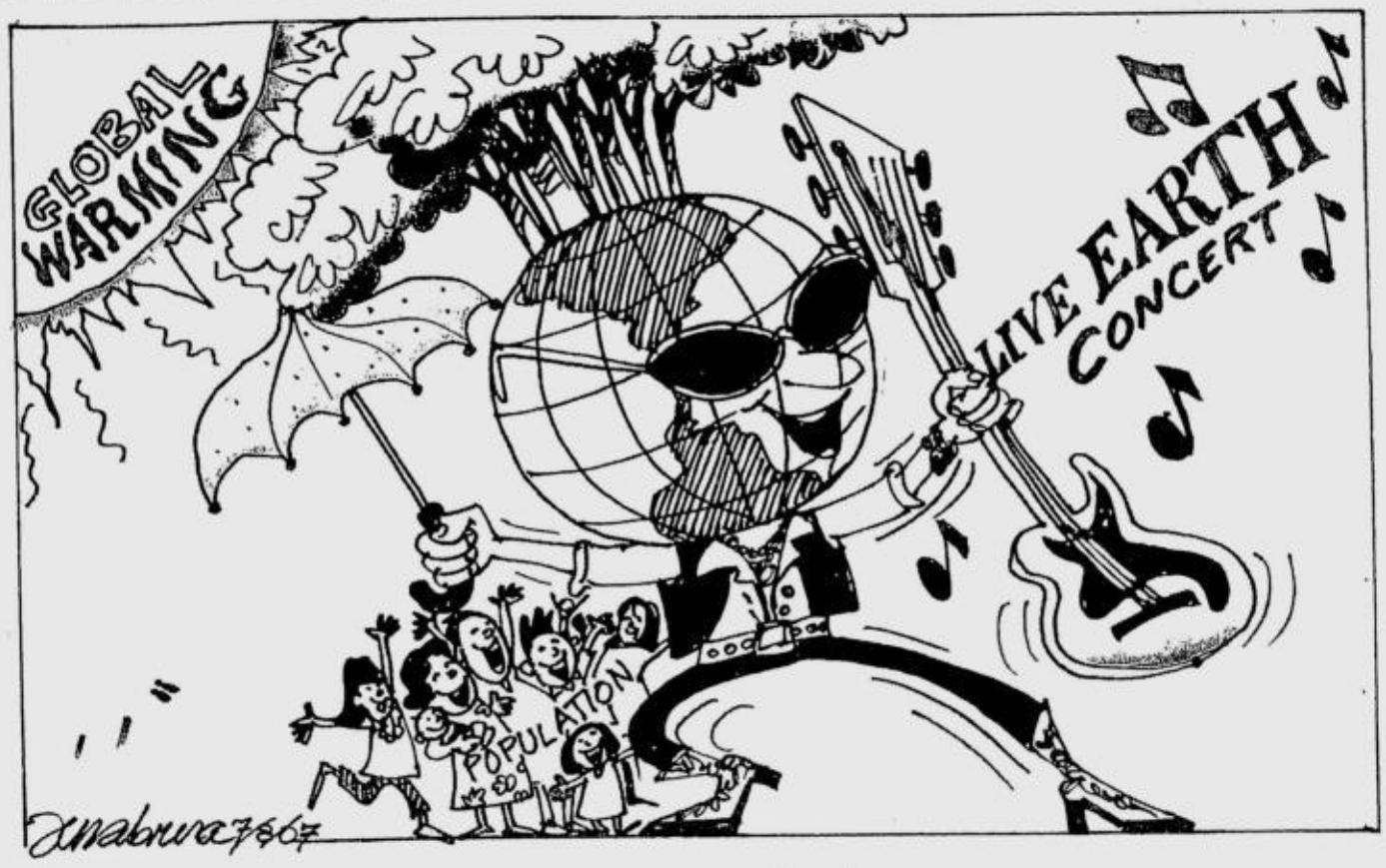

Form over substance

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IN MY COLUMN LAST WEEK, I DEPLORED THE often rigid application in judicial cases of procedural rules that prevent the enforcement of substantive rights, including those guaranteed and protected by the Bill of Rights.

I cited the case of Ilagan v. Enrile, 139 SCRA 349, where three lawyers were arrested by the military during the dictatorship and the IBP and two other law organizations filed a petition for habeas corpus on their behalf. The Supreme Court ordered their temporary release to their principal counsel, former Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion and retired Justice JBL Reyes. The respondents moved for reconsideration, invoking a presidential detention order issued by Marcos against the detainees and an information for rebellion that had subsequently been filed against them before a regional trial court that had issued a warrant for their arrest. All this, it was claimed, had made the petition for habeas corpus moot and academic.

The Supreme Court agreed on the basis of Rule 102, Sec. 4 of the Rules of Court providing that "if it appears that the person alleged to be restrained of his liberty is in the custody of an officer under process issued by a court or judge or by virtue of a judgment or order issued by a court of record, and that the court or judge had jurisdiction to issue the process, render the judgment, or make the order, the writ shall not be allowed..."

The majority opinion supported by 10 members of the Court declared:

"As contended by respondents, the petition herein has been rendered moot and academic by virtue of the filing of an Information against them for Rebellion, a capital offense, before the Regional Trial Court of Davao City and the issuance of a Warrant of Arrest against them. The function of the special proceeding of habeas corpus is to inquire into the legality of one's detention. Now that the detained attorneys' incarceration is by virtue of a judicial order in relation to criminal cases subsequently filed against them before the Regional Trial Court of Davao City, the remedy of habeas corpus no longer lies. The Writ had served its purpose."

Justices Claudio Teehankee, Hermogenes Concepcion, Vicente Abad Santos and Lino Patajo dissented. I will quote here the dissenting opinion of Justice Abad Santos as especially relevant to my suggestion last week for the need to reexamine the Rules of Court to reduce the force and insistence of procedural rules when they tend to militate against substantive rights, particularly the right to be heard under the due process clause.

Justice Abad Santos, one of my professors in the UP College of Law and later my chairman in the First Division of the Supreme Court, said:

"It was Holmes who said that the life of the law has not been logic; it has been experience. Thus the Roman law was ritualistic and highly formal. Gradually, however, it evolved and form was replaced by substance. The development of the law did not stop there. The Roman praetorian law enlarged, supplemented and overrode law which had become narrow and rigid in scope. Finally common law produced equity jurisprudence. It is a formal set of legal and procedural rules and doctrines to aid and even override common and statute law in order to protect rights and enforce duties fixed by substantive law.

"The majority opinion appeals to the mind for it appears to be logically constructed. It leans heavily on the letter of the law. Upon the other hand, the dissenting opinion of Justice Teehankee which is his article of faith appeals to the mind and the heart for it is based not only on law but on equity also.

"I believe that Justice Teehankee's opinion better serves the ends of justice and I gladly subscribe to it. I also subscribe to Justice Concepcion's separate opinion."

As a member of the Supreme Court, I had on several occasions recognized the importance of correct procedures for the orderly adjudication of substantive rights by the courts of justice. Litigations are after all not barroom brawls with no holds barred but civilized discussions of conflicting positions.

Even so, I had also deplored the practice of courts, including the Supreme Court, to apply technicalities as an excuse for not offending the political departments or, worse, to escape responsibility to decide serious constitutional questions urgently requiring their attention. A case in point is Guazon v. De Villa, 181 SCRA 623, where the Supreme Court refused to rule directly on the legality of the "zona" because it had not been raised by the alleged victims but by their civic leaders who, the Court said, were not the proper parties.

I argued that where a house is on fire, it is not only the owner who can call the firemen but any member of the community where the fire may spread. So too where the Constitution is violated and the liberty of all citizens is diminished, making every one of them a proper party. But my objection was as usual ignored by my colleagues (except Justice Abraham F. Sarmiento, who also dissented) in idolatrous deference to the ersatz rule of form over substance.

On the road

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

QUESTION: HOW DO YOU SAY IN ILOCANO "The road is nice"?

Answer: OK *ngarud*! (OK *na* road)

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk.: 10, 1-9), Jesus sends off His disciples on a mission, with special instructions on how they are to carry themselves on the road. But a close look at the "marching orders" of Jesus shows that, in fact, they were not to carry themselves but God on the road. Whom/what do you carry on the road?

* * *

Remember a saint of old by the name St. Christopher? The literal meaning of Christopher is "carrier of Christ" from the Latin words *Christo* (Christ) and *ferre* (to carry). Following this line, what would your name be? Money-pher? Power-pher? Problem-pher? Vices-pher? Who you are depends a lot on whatever goods or garbage you carry on the road of life.

* * *

Notice how we Filipinos identify a person by what he carries or peddles in this life? Thus, when we call a *balut* vendor, we call his attention by saying "*Psst! Balut*!" Or "Psst! Ice Cream!" when we call an ice cream vendor. I wonder how people will call us, based on what we carry in this life?

* * *

Based on today's Gospel, we are instructed to travel light on the road. We are to carry no provisions, "no money, no sack, no sandals." You and I know how burdensome it is when we travel with heavy and excess luggage. The burden weighs twice more when we know we are carrying with us prohibited items, because along with exhaustion comes the fear of being fined or denied entry at the port of destination. Remember, at heaven's gate, the immigration and customs officers there are honest, efficient and decisive.

* * *

We are instructed to carry God on the road. There are people whose hands are full in this life, but their hearts are empty, because they carry themselves, not God. We must learn to unload our personal agenda, our plans, our schedules, and put the Kingdom of God as our priority on the road. If you see life as a cruise and ignore the cross, you will be truly empty and disappointed as you travel on.

* * *

Furthermore, we are instructed by Jesus to travel together on the road. We are to go "in pairs," and carry out the mission together. We are to bring as a team the message of peace and proclaim the Kingdom of God amid resistance. Forget superstars and celebrities on the road. There's only one Superstar. It is the Lord whom we serve.

* * *

Finally we are instructed by Jesus to be joyful on the road. We are gifted to do our ministry with power, but our greatest joy is that our "names are written in heaven." It is consoling to know that there is meaning and reward not only on the road but also at the end of the road. One thing we must learn as we travel on is that our hands must unload, and our hearts must reload. Our hands must work, and our hands must share. On the same count, our hearts must be recharged in community and in prayer. Check your hands today if they are unused, and closed. Check your heart today if it is already "low-bat" or fully discharged.

* * *

There's a little girl on the road, and she is doing her mission for the Lord and Mama Mary in a very simple, humble and joyful way. Lately, people have been "slain in the Spirit" and have been healed by 14-year-old Fatima Soriano from Kawit, Cavite. Even children "slumber" in the Lord, and wake up to tell their dreams and visions of being with the Child Jesus or with Mama Mary. Also last June 5, Fatima received the mark of a heart on her lower lip. According to Fatima, the Blessed Mother told her that the heart mark on her lip will always be there so that she will always speak messages of peace, hope and love. Yes, a lot of wonderful things happen if the Lord is with us on the road.

* * *

Speaking of roads, we're going to Tabuk tomorrow for a family recollection to be held at the Tabuk Pastoral Center in Bulanao, Tabuk City, 3 to 7 p.m. It is part of our walking the earth for the Lord, doing errands for our God.

* * *

Home is the teacher. Corazon Pascua, a teacher of St. Theresa's College, Quezon City for 33 years, has gone back to the Heavenly Father. One can never begin to imagine how many young people this simple teacher has guided and helped on the road, nor can we measure the tremendous graces and blessings she gained for others in her bout with cancer these five years or so. Till the end of the road, she faithfully did her mission.

Praying that at the end of our earthly road, on the doorstep of eternity, we, like her, with humility and gratitude, will say to the Lord: "Mission accomplished."

* * *

"Cinderella Kids" is a presentation by Repertory Philippines, to be shown on Aug. 18, 2007, 10 a.m. at Onstage Theatre, Greenbelt, Makati for the benefit of Prolife Philippines. For Inquiries, please call 9112911; 4228877.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me to travel light, to travel not alone, and to travel with joy on the road. Amen.

Means and ends

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

SEN. ANTONIO TRILLANES IV FORMALLY TOOK his oath of office before a barangay chair in Caloocan City a week ago. That he chose to swear before the humblest elected official in the country is indicative of his conviction that he owed his election to the great multitude that are underserved and underrepresented.

Trillanes, the past. But even before he could take his seat, critics had already demonized him for his unattractive past. Who is this arrogant upstart who has no program of government, no vision, no worthy accomplishment to catapult him to the most eminent legislative hall of this blessed country, so they derisively asked. Opinion writers belittled him as "a boy with a new toy," "a pseudo hero," and "a typical neighborhood bully in a perpetual tantrum." One baptized him "Fidel Castro Trillanes."

True, Trillanes does not have the credentials of the Senate greats, the intellectual depth of Claro M. Recto, the brilliance of Jovito R. Salonga, the heroism of Ninoy Aquino, or the tenacity of Lorenzo Tañada. *Basta*, he had no "k" to be in the Senate, his tormentors insisted, oblivious of some not-so-great characters in that august body. All that was projected of him was his audacity in leading battle-weary soldiers during the Oakwood mutiny.

If the elections were held right after that caper in 2001, I doubt if he would have obtained more votes than Joselito Cayetano did. He was simply the head villain in a brazen attempt to seize the nation. But as the power wielders diminished in favor and in grace, and as the President's popularity ratings were sucked into the maelstrom of "cheating, lying and stealing," Trillanes grew in attention and in stature. That he tried to topple not only President Macapagal-Arroyo but also the Constitution and the entire establishment did not matter anymore. He became the visible symbol of the people's angst.

Trillanes, the present. And so, more than 11 million voters elevated him to the Senate. He was their hero, not so much for the failed mutiny he led as for the aspirations he embodied. In him, they found commonality in the goals espoused but not necessarily in the methods employed. In effect, they were telling him, "We agree with your ends but not with your means. We shall make you a part of the democratic establishment, so you can, through legal means, pursue your lofty aims to liberate us from corruption, abuse and senseless killings."

I shall not discuss here whether Trillanes is guilty of the crimes attributed to him. I do not know as yet what facts have been established to prove the charges filed against him. A judgment is arrived at only after the judge is convinced that the facts proven by the prosecution had (or had not) constituted the crime charged. Sometimes, the facts established may prove a wrong, but if the offense proven is not the crime charged (or one necessarily included therein), an acquittal may be inevitable.

Whether guilty or not, Trillanes must still patiently go through the labyrinths of the rule of law. He should neither ask for nor be granted any special favors. Otherwise, he would be remiss in the observance of the democratic processes that he swore to obey when he took his oath of office. Perseverance in the ways of the law, this is his crucial test in the present.

Trillanes, the future. Verily, by taking his oath of office, he solemnly promised to defend and protect the Constitution and to uphold the rule of law. By serving his mandate, he has become an essential part of the democratic establishment. Hence, he can no longer justify the use of brawns and guns as the means to change society—or even just the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the immediate beneficiary of his crusade. He is now bound by his self-sought obligations to use legitimate means to attain noble objectives.

"No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the law." So says the first and most basic provision of the Bill of Rights. Stress should be on "due process." In fact, the crucible of a vigilant judiciary is the assurance of due process before anyone is detained, before goods may be seized, and before employment may be terminated.

The past did not bring about the reforms that Trillanes had sought through unconstitutional methods. The present has given him the opportunity to change the establishment from within, through the prudent use of the Constitution and the law. Facing him is the future. Will he take advantage of the unusual opportunity given him by our people to pursue his ends with the proper means? Dreams must never die, but they must live within the law.

In our constitutional structure, the legislative and executive departments are mandated to protect the State from internal and external attacks, to promote the general welfare, and to advance the prosperity of our people. The judiciary makes sure that these legislative-executive goals are pursued only through legitimate means. No short cuts, no fattening of private pockets, no violation of individual liberties. In a functioning democracy under the rule of law, there is a happy blending of means and ends.

Indeed, means are as important as ends. This is the great lesson of history. Hitler and Stalin ignored their interdependence. But Churchill, Roosevelt and Quezon sanctified it. Means and ends, as the old song goes, go together like love and marriage, like horse and carriage.

* * *

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

Girls in trains

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO CLIMB THE QUEZON AVENUE Metro Rail Transit station, but unless you take the elevator, all three ways amount to scaling endless sets of stairs. I go up across McDonald's, past the two men hawking FX rides to Ortigas and the bedraggled, skinny little girl who looks down at my offer of a partially eaten ice cream cone.

Once there, you climb, calves screaming, up the more-often-than-not broken escalator, past signs draped on the wall of the next building. There are offers of plastic surgery discounts, before-and-after pictures of broken yellow teeth, and training advertisements for those who seek a career in the call center industry. Learn to speak American from real Americans! Apply now! There's a rhythm to the ascent, a 1-2-1-2 tapping of boot heels, pink flip-flops and grimy sneakers; an orchestra directed by clacking stilettos. When you hit the top, high above the slow crawl of morning traffic, a line snakes past two tables, where a listless pair of inspectors tap bags with wooden sticks. From there, it's mechanical. Stick the card into the slot, whisper a quick prayer to the gods that there's enough credit left for a return trip, push against the metal railing, and trudge down to the yellow arrow at the very end of the platform.

A year ago, when they first cordoned off this area with a guard standing on a blue box and printouts that proclaimed the first few cars were only for "female, elderly, children and handicapped," I continued to ride with the men. I'm all for offering special privileges for the elderly and the handicapped, as well as those hauling along small children. But in the age of Oprah and mountain-climbing women, not to mention a female President who has proven she has just as much bullheaded machismo as all three of her male predecessors, this sort of legislated chauvinism seems backward.

Every time I shoved myself into the men's section, I thought of it as a silent protest against segregation. Sometimes, it was not so silent, on the occasions I had to explain to the guards that I wasn't illiterate, that I deliberately chose to sweat in the back cars, and that yes, I could shove an elbow into a harasser's balls if I had to. I thought of it as my early morning crusade—what can I say, I was a 20-year-old college kid with angst to spare. It took a full month when I realized that by forcing my way in, I was depriving men of space, seats and oxygen.

So I packed up my indignation and resigned myself to the women's section. Four days ago, I caught the MRT at the last stop, Taft. The women flooded the car, enough to fill seats on both sides. At Magallanes, the doors slid open, and a pregnant woman slipped in. She was thin, with bony wrists clutching the metal pole at the other end of the aisle. When I stood up to offer my seat, I had to walk over to the other side of the train to tap her on the shoulder. She smiled, moved toward the seat I vacated, just as a curly-haired girl in an orange T-shirt, black leggings and flat pink patent ballet shoes shoved her behind and leopard-print hobo bag into the empty blue seat. Then she looked at the pregnant woman, looked at me, then looked away and pretended to sleep.

The pregnant woman shrugged. I think she was used to it. Then the doors slid open again to let in another flood of females. I lost sight of the girl, but not my temper. And during all 10 stops to Quezon Avenue, not a single one of the sneakered, IPod carrying teenagers who had snared their seats from Taft Avenue stood up to let the pregnant woman sit. I felt the same way Jesus Christ probably felt when vendors sat chattering outside the temple doors. Pissed.

It used to be that when a man stood up to offer a woman his seat, it was because the woman he was standing up for might be his mother, his sister, his wife; and that by standing up, perhaps somewhere, sometime, some man might stand up for his own mother, sister or wife. Is this why women don't stand up for other women, because they can't see themselves in the pregnant woman barely able to keep her footing?

The standards for manners have evolved, of course. Fragility is no longer gender-based, so manners differ from one person to another. I like to think, however, that manners are something like human rights. Inasmuch as culture is negotiable, there are certain non-negotiables, like torture, like genocide, like child molestation. When it comes to manners, whether you're man, woman, or teenager coming home from a shopping spree, you stand up for the old man or woman, for the handicapped boy, for the pregnant mother. You do not, for example, look up at her, then shove earphones into your ears and pretend not to see her. The privilege of anonymity is a wonderful thing in a world of cameras and cell phones and speed; that privilege, however, does not extend to callousness. One incident in a train may not seem like a big deal, but if you don't stand up for the pregnant woman, you're bound to sit back when the man gets run over on the side street, or when the child is kidnapped before your eyes.

I thought that the reason I was writing this column was indignation, some sort of righteous anger. I changed my mind when a friend asked me, when I was telling the story, why I didn't speak up, why I didn't ask one of the girls to make way for the pregnant woman. And that's when I realized the reason I had to write this was to make up for that, to apologize, in a way, for being afraid to rock the boat and make a scene, or for simply not knowing how to.

I like to think those girls who sat with their eyes on their Adidas sneakers wanted to do something, only that they didn't know how, or if they should. The darling girl with her leopard print bag will always stay in my head as someone whom I would love to meet in a back alley somewhere. As for the rest, maybe they were like me, recklessly passionate, but because of some sort of misplaced shyness, or lack of knowledge, became incapable of concrete action.

So I write this today, indignation deflated, in an attempt to make it up to a woman with thin wrists wearing a flowered shirt. I want her to know that yesterday, I stood up for an old lady with a grandson, and that after me, a girl in a nursing uniform stood up for someone's mother.

* * *

For comments, just text: PM REBEL name, age, location, message then send to 2948 for Globe/Sun and 3940 for Smart. E-mail at rebel.inquirer@gmail.com

Explaining the unexplainable

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

EVEN FOR A POPULACE INURED TO REPORTS of gruesome slayings and heinous crimes, the story of the final hours and death of a 3-year-old girl who was abducted in a mall and later turned up dead in a ditch is particularly chilling. And much of the chill can be attributed to the fact that her own biological father had a hand in her abduction and death.

Security cameras recorded Jayson Noriega, 22, entering the mall at 8:34 p.m. of June 28 with two children and the children's mother, his common-law wife. At 9:02 p.m., the cameras caught Noriega leaving the mall with the girl, and then returning to the mall a few minutes later, alone.

The girl's disappearance made it to the TV news when the mother sounded the alarm. After two days of anxious waiting, police recovered the body of a child in a ditch in Pasig. The girl's body had one stab wound in the chest. One channel even recorded the mother's initial doubts about the dead child being her daughter. TV cameras then showed Soco operatives opening the tiny casket and asking the mother to confirm if indeed it was her daughter. Heart-wrenching, indeed, was the young mother's wailing as she stormed out of the room, saying she was finally conceding it was her little girl and begging authorities to stop badgering her.

So when police said their main suspect was the 3-year-old's father and some cohorts, great was our shock and grief. Several theories emerged from this stunning turn of events. The father said he had been contesting custody of his children with his estranged partner, and this paper reported that Noriega told police he got "irritated" by the girl's incessant crying, which perhaps could be taken as an admission of his culpability in the girl's death.

* * *

PARENTS killing their own children is no longer new or especially earthshaking. Medea killed her own children to protect them from the wrath of their father Jason. Of more recent memory are two mothers in the United States, one of whom drowned her two boys to appease a lover, then went on TV to plead with the "kidnappers" to release her sons safely; the other drowned her brood in their bathtub while in the grip of post-partum depression. Most recently, a professional wrestler, allegedly suffering the effects of depression caused by steroids, killed his wife and child and then hanged himself. Recall the local news story a few years back when an unemployed father fed his children poisoned food because he could no longer stand their constant cries of hunger.

This is child abuse and violence against children taken to the extreme. It is the unimaginable and irrational confronting us with its banal reality. People often say such parents are "monsters" devouring their young, explaining away their own incomprehension by insisting that these child-killers must be "mad," "crazy," "possessed by the devil," "high on drugs" or "in the throes of depression." And yet, even these easy explanations cannot rationalize a father using his child as a pawn in a custody dispute, then losing his grip when the child refuses to (or cannot) stop crying.

Why do parents turn on their children? What factors drive them to violate one of the earliest and most sacred codes in human history? And would one need to be unhinged to commit such a crime?

* * *

IN "PROTECTING Women and Children: A Handbook on Community-based Response to Violence," authors Maria Leny Felix and Dr. Regina Dela Paz-Ingente cite several reasons for child abuse within a family.

Child abuse, they say, is rooted in "the use of power and authority ... where the perpetrator uses his/her powerful and dominant position in the family to exercise control over the children. Being young and dependent on their parents for all of their basic needs, the children occupy a subordinate position in the family, making them vulnerable to abusive family members."

Also established by research is the link between wife or partner abuse and child abuse. Felix and Ingente, citing numerous studies here and abroad, say there is "30 to 40 percent overlap between children who witness wife (or partner) assault and children who experience direct physical abuse themselves." In other words, nearly half of children who see their mothers being abused are or will be abused themselves.

There is also an interesting theory regarding the contrasting motives between most men and most women who end up killing their children. In the wake of a wave of "mother-and-child suicides" in Japan many years ago, psychologists pointed to the subordinate position of the average Japanese housewife, who lives a lonely, isolated existence with her workaholic husband who is away for most of the day and night; and centering her life on her children. When she feels she is not doing her job right, such as not fitting in with the right "clique" of mothers in her child's school or even playground, a mother may feel she has to pay for her failure with her own life, taking along her child so she could protect him/her in the afterlife.

* * *

AT THE risk of generalizing, we could say that many men abuse or kill their children as an extension of their desire to establish authority and control in the family; while some women take their children's lives in a desire to spare them from a bleak future.

Either way, it is still violence and killing at its most reprehensible.

We also need to go beyond shock at a particular, personal crime and, as a community, arrive at common solutions to prevent or at least mitigate the occurrence of women and child abuse. We as a society pay for our indifference, for as Felix and Ingente state: "Beyond money ... is the cost of how we damage women and children's sense of safety and well-being and their potentials (for) contributing productively to our society."

The politics of holidays

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

SOME DAYS ARE SACRED TO INDIVIDUALS, couples, families, nations and religious communities. We call them holidays. On such days, people pause to summon memory, and to bask in the mixed sentiments it evokes. They may be sentiments from a deprived or happy childhood, a shared life, a heroic and difficult struggle, or a recurring promise of redemption and renewal. Most holidays fall on fixed dates in the calendar—like birthdays, death anniversaries, wedding anniversaries, Independence Day and Christmas Day. Others follow the cosmic rhythm of the seasons—like the holy days of Lent in the lengthening days of spring.

By their nature, holidays are never convenient; they are precisely meant to interrupt the routine carved by work in our daily lives. They are necessary pauses, memory markers creating space for special reflection—distinct from the normal weekend or the long holiday breaks we take in order to rest.

And so it baffles me no end that our political leaders have felt it necessary to "rationalize" our national holidays. Unknown to many of us, the 13th Congress, while setting aside bills of greater urgency (like the bill on cheap medicines), managed to pass early this year "An Act Rationalizing the Celebration of National Holidays." This bill, now awaiting the President's final signature, would make national holidays like Independence Day (June 12), Labor Day (May 1), Rizal Day (Dec. 30), and Bonifacio Day (Nov. 30) movable. They will henceforth be observed on the Monday closest to their original date. The idea is to make such celebrations an extension of the weekend.

The word "rationalization" has been so overused by this government that one no longer knows what the word exactly means. What does it mean to rationalize remembrance, for instance? In its usual sense, rationalization refers to the selection of the most efficient means to achieve a certain goal. If commemoration is the goal, how does annexing a national holiday to a weekend significantly enhance its remembrance?

But if the idea is to realign national holidays in such a way as to produce long weekends suitable for vacation and shopping, one has to ask why this should be called rationalization and not commercialization.

It is possible that this bright idea was copied from the United States. The absorption of national holidays into 3-day weekends has been the practice in the United States since "The Uniform Monday Holiday Act" took effect in 1971. But it is interesting to note that this law applies only to four national holidays, namely: Washington's Birthday, Columbus Day, Labor Day, and Memorial Day. The US Congress left Independence Day untouched, sensibly avoiding the absurdity of celebrating 4th of July on any other day but July 4th.

Washington's Birthday (Feb. 22) has evolved into Presidents Day, which recalls the contributions not only of Washington but also of Lincoln (born Feb. 12) and other American presidents. In this expanded meaning, it is no longer important to commemorate this day on Washington's actual birthday.

Columbus Day, on the other hand, holds a mixed significance for many Americans. The movable date in which Columbus Day is now remembered roughly corresponds to the shifting public opinion on this European voyager. The dominant view still favors the celebration of Columbus' arrival in the New World (Oct. 12), but there is considerable sentiment among Americans that the decimation of the native population that followed in the wake of Columbus' entry into America can never be a source of pride. Indeed, even Latin America is divided on the significance of this event. While Argentina, Chile and Mexico celebrate Oct. 12 as "Dia de la raza" (Day of the race), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela marks it as "Dia de la Resistencia indigena" (Day of indigenous resistance). It is not farfetched to imagine that, one of these days, Columbus Day will be taken out of the list of US holidays.

Labor Day in the United States is, of course, not the same as May Day elsewhere in the world. It has always been set on the first Monday of September instead of May 1st, a sacred day for the world's working class. On the other hand, Memorial Day, moved from May 30 to the last Monday in May, honors those who died in military service for the United States. It is more or less the equivalent of our Bataan Day, although in the United States, there is a separate Veterans Day, which is explicitly devoted to honoring US veterans of past wars. Originally celebrated on Nov. 11th, this day was moved to the second Monday in November by law. But the veterans felt slighted and demanded the return to the original date. They argued that number 11 meant something special: the Armistice marking the end of the 1st World War was signed at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. They got their way.

What insight might we draw from this short review? Only this, I think: That some national holidays lose their inspirational and instructional value when the original dates of their remembrance are sacrificed to give way to long weekends. This is true of June 12th (Independence Day), May 1st (Labor Day), Dec. 30 (Rizal Day), and Nov. 30 (Bonifacio Day). In the secular calendar of Filipino nationhood, these dates are as important as New Year's Day and Christmas Day. There is good reason to shield them from the "rationalizing" hands of politicians and merchants.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

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TALK of the TOWN

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REY DE GUZMAN/PIA

Cultivating Jatropha

HIGH CRUDE OIL PRICES AND GLOBAL WARMING ARE PUSHING GOVERNments and businesses to develop biofuels—alternative fuels from renewable sources like crops, plant fiber, trees, poultry litter, animal waste and the biodegradable component of solid waste.

Biofuels include bioethanol, biodiesel and fuels from biomass. Bioethanol is a light alcohol produced by fermenting starch or sugar from sugarcane, corn, cassava and nipa. Biodiesel is fuel extracted from plant oils like jatropha, palm, soy, rapeseed and coconut.

Signed into law in January, the Biofuels Act, or Republic Act No. 9367, mandates the use of biofuels in the Philippines. The law requires that a minimum of 1 percent of biodiesel blend be sold within three months of its effectivity and at least 2 percent within two years.

To meet the demand for biodiesel, the government through the Philippine National Oil Co.-Alternative Fuels Corp. is setting jatropha nurseries and plantations. PNOC-AFC is planning to build a refinery to process oil extracted from jatropha and a petrochemical complex in Limay, Bataan to produce biodegradable polyurethane from the plant.

Jatropha curcas is seen as a promising plant for making biofuel because it can grow on poor land and is less likely to displace food crops.

Q. What is jatropha?

A. Jatropha, commonly known as physic or purging nut, is a non-edible oil-yielding perennial shrub that has green leaves with a length and width of 6 centimeters (cm) to 15 cm, and can reach a height of up to 5 meters. It originated in tropical America and West Asia.

Jatropha comes from the Greek words: *jatros* (doctor) and *trophe* (nutrition). It belongs to the family Euphorbiaceae.

It is known locally as *tuba-tuba*. Others call it *tagumbao, tawa-tawa, kalunay, kasla* and *tangan-tangan*.

Q. Are there different types of jatropha?

A. The genus jatropha has 176 species distributed throughout the world. Twelve species can be found in India.

Q. What type of weather is ideal for jatropha?

A. Jatropha grows in tropical and subtropical regions. It is drought-resistant.

Q. What type of soil is ideal for jatropha?

A. Jatropha can be planted in any kind of soil. It can grow even in highly degraded and marginal areas. However, low yields have been recorded in low rainfall areas while it can be grown with higher yields in high-rainfall or irrigated areas.

Q. What are the uses of jatropha?

A. Jatropha is used as purgative, pesticide, soap and fuel oil for lighting and cooking.

Because of its strong root system, jatropha can grow almost everywhere. It can hold water and survive the driest season. It is, thus, useful in reforestation and soil rehabilitation, and in preventing soil erosion.

In the Philippines, it is mainly used as a live fence for protection of agricultural fields from damage by livestock. As a non-edible plant, it is an effective barrier between livestock and crop fields; thus, the local name *tubang bakod*.

Q. Is it true that jatropha has medicinal properties?

A. Yes. Jatropha has long been used as folk medicine.

The nut itself is used as a purgative and laxative, hence, "physic nut," its common name in English.

Among other uses, jatropha's seed oil can be applied to treat eczema and skin diseases and to soothe rheumatic pain (Heller, 1996). Leaves are regarded as antiparasitic, applied to scabies (Hartwell, 1967-1971). Latex applied topically to bee stings (Watt and Breyer-Brandwijk, 1962). Cameroon natives use the leaf decoction for arthritis (Watt and Breyer-Brandwijk, 1962). Venezuelans take the root decoction for dysentery (Morton, 1981).

Q. What is the productive life of jatropha?

A. Jatropha has a productive life of 35 to 50 years. It starts flowering a year after planting.

Jatropha produces seeds within the first year of planting. Seeds for replanting can be gathered when the fruits are already yellow to dark brown. Seeds that are black and dry can already be used for oil extraction.

Q. What does a jatropha seed contain?

A. A jatropha seed contains 18 percent protein, 8 percent moisture, 35 percent fat, 17 percent carbohydrates, 16 percent fiber and 6 percent ash.

Q. How much oil can be extracted from a jatropha seed?

A. The oil content varies from 30 to 40 percent. A good quality kernel yields 40 to 58 percent.

With irrigation, fertile soil, favorable climatic conditions and the right choice of seeds, jatropha can achieve six to eight tons of oil per year.

Q. How does one extract oil from jatropha?

A. The process of producing biodiesel from jatropha starts with oil extraction. Oil from the seeds of jatropha is separated from the seed kernel and seed shell using mechanical or solvent extraction method.

One can easily extract oil from jatropha by using a presser-expeller.

It has been estimated that for a presser-expeller to be economically viable and have continuous supply of jatropha nut, 5,000 hectares of land should be planted with jatropha.

The yield is about 1 liter of oil for every three kilos of seeds. The oil is then refined to produce biodiesel. This process of converting jatropha oil into biodiesel fuel is called transesterification.

For inquiries on presser-expeller, you may contact Prof. Rex D. Demafelis, national president of the Philippine Institute of Chemical Engineers, and chair of the Chemical Engineering Department of UP Los Baños, at 0919-2651816.

Plans for the establishment of three biodiesel processing plants and a central biofuels terminal facility are now underway in Philippine National Oil Co.-Alternative Fuels Corp.'s industrial park in Bataan. For inquiries, you may get in touch with the PNOC-AFC park manager at 0928-4303006.

Q. Can one use jatropha oil to power a stove?

A. Yes. After about two years of pilot testing in the towns of Baybay and Onopacan as well as in Ormoc and Tacloban cities in Leyte province, a stove powered entirely by plant oil is now commercially available in Leyte, and eventually, in other parts of the country.

Apart from jatropha, coconut oil can be used, which is abundant in Leyte and Samar.

Dr. Roberto C. Duarte, project director of Protos stove, developed by BSH Bosch and Siemens Hausgerate GmbH in partnership with Leyte State University, said that nearly 200 households and small restaurants were using the stove.

Protos is safe. Its emission is not hazardous to health. It is likewise not flammable under normal room conditions compared with other gases. Thus, it is less prone to fire. It does not have soot compared with a petroleum-based stove.

The single burner stove is being sold for P2,000, while the double burner can be bought at P3,500.

For more information about Protos, you may contact Dr. Roberto C. Guarte, project director of the Plant Oil Stove Project-Philippine Component, College of Engineering and Agri-Industries, Leyte State University in Baybay, Leyte. You may e-mail him at guarte_rc @yahoo.com.

Q. What are the effects of jatropha biodiesel on the environment?

A. The use of jatropha biodiesel reduces air pollution because it has zero sulfur emission.

Tests by the United States Environment Protection Agency have shown that the use of biodiesel almost completely eliminates life-cycle carbon dioxide emissions. It is neutral in its net addition to global warming because whatever carbon dioxide (CO_2) released in combustion is sequestered while growing the crop.

Indeed, jatropha plantations that sequester CO_2 are sources of "CO_2 emission credits" that could be purchased by countries that are unable to cut their CO_2 emission reduction targets. This is in line with the Kyoto Protocol.

Q. Is the Philippines ideal for the cultivation of jatropha?

A. Yes. In 2006, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) studied the potential of jatropha as biodiesel feedstock in the Philippines. It found that the country has sufficient arable areas, and favorable climatic conditions with adequate rainfall. These account for large feedstock production every year.

Q. Does the Philippines have a sufficient area for jatropha cultivation to meet the various biodiesel blends?

A. Yes. Based on 2006 FAO estimates, the country has a sufficient area for jatropha cultivation vis-à-vis the total area required for jatropha plantation to meet the various biodiesel blends (1 percent, 2 percent, 5 percent, 10 percent and 20 percent). *See Table 1.*

Q. Is there a market for jatropha?

A. Yes. With the enactment of the Biofuels Act of 2006, the local demand for biodiesel is expected to increase to about 78 million liters in 2007, with a minimum of 1-percent blend; and 167 million liters by 2009 at 2-percent blend. *See Table 2.*

Q. How does one start to propagate jatropha?

A. Jatropha is normally propagated through main propagation (seeds or vegetative cuttings) and micro-propagation or tissue culture.

• *Seeds.* Healthy seeds are selected for raising seedlings. Before sowing, seeds are soaked in water for 12 hours and seeds are subsequently sown in 10 cm x 20 cm polyethylene bags filled with soil, sand and organic fertilizer at a ratio of 1:1:1.

Raising seedlings in polyethylene bags can accelerate the initial growth of a plantation by at least four months. Four-month-old seedlings can be planted in fields.

• *Vegetative cuttings.* Jatropha can also be propagated through cuttings. Normally, five roots are formed from a jatropha seed, one central (tap root) and four peripheral. Cuttings, when planted, do not form a tap root.

Proper care is required in selecting the cuttings, which should be at least one-year-old and about 60-cm long.

For seedling propagation, cuttings can also be planted in polyethylene bags.

• *Tissue culture.* Mass multiplication of high-yielding varieties is possible only through tissue culture. Once high-yielding varieties are identified, millions of propagules can be multiplied through tissue culture. Such plants possess certain advantages like uniformity in yield and oil content and homogeneity in all respects.

The research work on the development of suitable protocol for mass multiplication of elite jatropha has been initiated in India about two years ago. The standardization of protocol is in progress.

Q. Where are PAFC's jatropha nurseries and plantations?

A. The PNOC-AFC, in partnership with the Department of National Defense-Armed Forces of the Philippines (DND-AFP) has established a 500-hectare jatropha meganursery cum plantation in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija.

Talks have been undertaken to link with the Department of Justice to establish another pilot plantation at the Iwahig Penal Colony in Palawan. Coron, Busuanga and Culion are considered potential sites for jatropha plantation.

PNOC-AFC's land consolidation in Mindanao is ongoing, and about 1.2 million hectares classified as ancestral or private lands have been identified by the company so far as potential areas for jatropha plantation.

A thorough assessment is ongoing in terms of tenurial instruments covering these areas, availability of labor and basic infrastructure, climatic conditions and soil quality, among others.

Q. What is the ideal land area for planting jatropha?

A. The planting density of 2,500 plants per hectare at 2 m x 2 m spacing has been found to be optimal under rain-fed conditions.

Recent experiences in India showed that spacing of 2 m x 3 m accommodating 1,667 plants per hectare is more suitable as it provides sufficient area to undertake inter-cropping and allows easy harvesting and collection of seeds.

It was also observed that a 3 m x 3 m spacing can be followed if there is a sufficient irrigation facility and a well-distributed rainfall.

The spacing of 2 m x 3 m and 3 m x 3 m will facilitate intercropping during the initial three years of plantation operations.

If jatropha is to be planted as a hedge crop, the spacing of 1 m x 1 m may be adopted.

Q. How much does it cost to develop a plantation?

A. Based on the Indian experience of a 2 m x 3 m spacing with about 1,667 seeds per hectare, a hectare costs about P50,000 to develop in the first two years.

Q. How many seeds are required in planting jatropha?

A. The requirement has been estimated at 1,667 seedlings per hectare for a 2 m x 3 m spacing, and 2,500 seedlings per hectare for a 2 m x 2 m spacing.

Q. How does one go about in planting seedlings?

A. Two-month-old seedlings should be planted in pits (45 cm x 45 cm x 45 cm) at specified spacings.

Each pit is filled with organic fertilizer and soil mixture at 3:1 ratio (3 parts soil and 1 part organic fertilizer).

The basal application of fertilizer at the rate of 20 gram (g) urea, 120 g single super phosphate and 16 g murate of potash is mixed with soil and filled into the pits.

Then the fertilizer is covered with topsoil in a hill-up manner to avoid erosion and the watering of the plants is done up to two weeks after transplanting.

For cuttings, the same procedure can be adopted provided that the stalk is transferred within five days after cutting.

Q. How much is the cost per seedling and per cutting?

A. With very limited sources of jatropha sold locally, per seedling costs P10 to P15; per cutting P5 to P10.

Q. Is there a specific variety that could well reproduce enough seeds for the country?

A. Jatropha is grown everywhere in the country and planting materials and seeds may be sourced nationwide.

Varieties from other countries likewise need to be assessed to determine, among others, its impact on local biodiversity.

Q. How does one maintain a jatropha plantation?

A. To harness the full potential yield of jatropha, plantations should be maintained by providing the required nutrients and need-based irrigation.

After reaching full growth, pruning should be done not only to achieve desired yield but also to give shape, proper aeration and light required by the plant.

Q. How many seeds are produced per hectare?

A. The seed yield of jatropha will vary under different agro-climatic conditions and planting density. Seed yield varies from 5 metric tons (MT) to 7 MT per hectare.

A harvest of 5 MT per hectare on the average is expected under favorable conditions. The suitable intercrop may be undertaken during the initial years of plantation as this does not affect the yield of the jatropha.

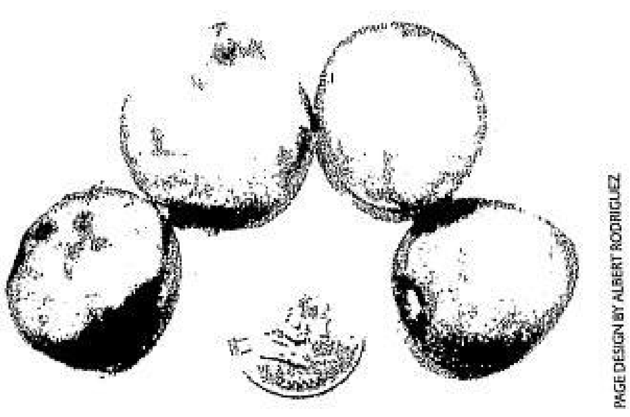
The average annual income of farmers from jatropha is estimated at P50,000 per hectare.

(Text and research by Yoko C. Ramos and Dennis Bryann M. Ting. Both are directors assigned to the Office of the Chairman, Philippine National Oil Co.-Alternative Fuels Corp.)

Table 1: Expected diesel demand and corresponding jatropha area

Year	Diesel demand (million liters)	Area requirements (hectares)				
	(Average)	1 percent	2 percent	5 percent	10 percent	20 percent
2007	7,769.50	45,063	90,126	225,316	450,631	901,262
2009	8,364.00	48,511	97,022	242,556	485,112	970,224
2011	8,998.50	52,191	104,383	260,957	521,913	1,043,826
2013	9,700.50	56,263	112,526	281,315	562,629	1,125,258
2015	10,414.50	60,404	120,808	302,021.	604,041	1,208,082

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY PROJECTIONS



MATURE jatropha seeds

REY DE GUZMAN/PIA

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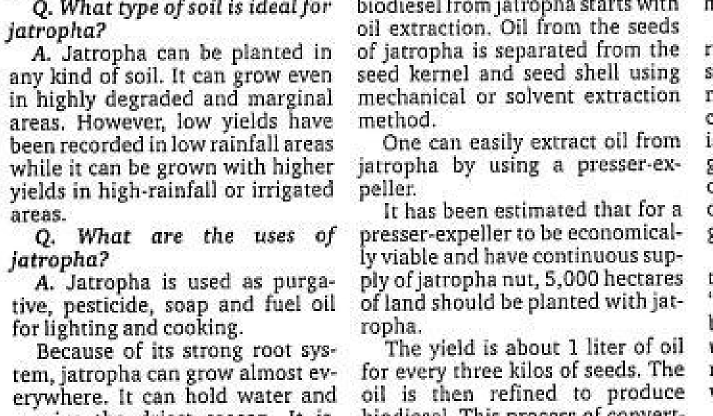

TISSUE-cultured jatropha

REY DE GUZMAN/PIA

Table 2: Projected biodiesel demand in the Philippines at varying blends

Year	Diesel demand (million liters)			Biodiesel requirements (million liters)				
	(Low)*	(High)*	(Average)	1 percent	2 percent	5 percent	10 percent	20 percent
2007	4,121	11,418	7,769.50	77.70	155.39	388.48	776.96	1,553.90
2009	4,447	12,281	8,364.00	83.64	167.28	418.20	836.40	1,672.80
2011	4,786	13,211	8,998.50	89.99	179.97	449.93	899.85	1,799.70
2013	5,191	14,210	9,700.50	97.01	194.01	485.03	970.05	1,940.10
2015	5,544	15,285	10,414.50	104.15	208.29	520.73	1,041.45	2,082.90

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY PROJECTIONS

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Panlilio collects P5M in quarry taxes

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE SPECIAL COMmittee formed by Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio has collected more than P5 million in sand taxes in the first five days that the Catholic priest has been in office.

Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao, who took on a watchdog role against graft at the provincial capitol, said the income earned under Panlilio confirmed that the "potentials [of the quarry industry] are big."

"That is within the range of expectations," Guiao said.

The P5-million collection is 17.18 percent of the P29.1 million generated by the administration of former Gov. Mark Lapid for the whole of 2006, an INQUIRER review of capitol reports on quarry income showed.

It was higher than the P3.19 million collected from January to February this year.

The recent collection represented an average of 3,333 truckloads of sand a day, more than the 100 truckloads reported by the previous administration.

If the trend continues, last year's income could be raised in a month's time, Panlilio said.

A separate check by the INQUIRER showed that if the capitol makes an average of P20 million monthly, it could surpass the P106.4 million collected in 2001 by the Natural Resources Development Corp. of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

New system

Panlilio attributed the increase in collections to a new system that the provincial government had adopted starting Monday to help rid the system of graft-prone policies.

The system was implemented on the strength of Panlilio's first two executive orders and enforced by a team of four former seminarians who volunteered for the job.

The EOs required the haulers to pay the P300 tax per truckload at the provincial treasurer's office, not at quarry checkpoints established by the roadsides.

Panlilio replaced 90 capitol employees and assigned new personnel at checkpoints to verify the authenticity of receipts shown by haulers as they pass there.

The governor said local governments in areas where the sand have been hauled would receive their share of the quarry income at the end of July.

Of the P300 tax, P150 would be divided on a 30-30-40 percent sharing by the province, towns and barangays, respectively. The capitol would keep the other P150 to cover operational expenses.

Panlilio said he was not keen at this point to accept a proposal to grant the NRDC an authority to oversee the industry and collect the taxes.

"If our system is found to be ineffective, we are going to improve it until it gets better and better," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Lapids' role

Asked if his administration would pursue new cases against Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid and his son, Mark, for the low collections they made during their stints in the last 12 years, Panlilio said: "We have not discussed that matter yet. For now, we just collect and protect the interest of the Kapampangan over this public resource."

Sand became more bountiful in Pampanga after Mt. Pinatubo spewed out sand during its 1991 eruptions.

But the Lapids have "a lot of explaining to do," Guiao said.

"We need to follow up on the graft cases against the Lapids so we can protect the province's future income from quarry and nobody does it (alleged theft of public funds) anymore," he said.

Provincial treasurer Vergel Yabut could not be reached on Saturday to explain the low collections in the last six years and the sudden increase now.

The younger Lapid and Yabut were named respondents in a graft case that Guiao filed at the Office of the Ombudsman before the May 14 elections.

EDWIN BACASMAS

FOREIGN AID
US Navy personnel work at a site where houses are being built by the US Navy for mudslide survivors on the lower slopes of Mayon volcano in Legaspi. The houses were built by a US Navy team as part of a $5-million donation by the US government to rehabilitate areas around Mayon that were devastated by typhoons and volcanic mudslides and claimed about 1,200 lives in November 2006.

BFAR says no shortage of tuna in GenSan

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—THE Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) denied the reported shortage of small tuna supply here.

Puresa Duremdes, of the BFAR information division, told the INQUIRER that they were issuing "many" export permits daily for tuna canning factories and fishing firms here.

This, Duremdes claimed, is an indication that tuna canning plants here are normally operating.

Earlier, Mariano Fernandez, manager of Ocean canning firm here, claimed that the operations of tuna processing plants here was reduced to about 80 percent due to shortage in supply of juvenile tuna.

Juvenile tuna are the ones used by tuna canneries here in making sardines.

Fernandez attributed the shortage to global warming.

In a mobile phone interview with INQUIRER, he said the non-renewal by the Indonesian government of the bilateral fishing agreement with the Philippines exacerbated the problem.

He said Indonesian Navy has been very strict and closely watching the Indonesian territorial waters, preventing any poachers.

Sulu Sea and Indonesian waters have been the traditional fishing grounds of fishermen especially tuna catchers from this city.

Fernandez claimed that if within a week's time there would be no tuna, he will be forced to temporarily close down Ocean Canning.

Rajat Balain, of Alliance Tuna International, one of the leading canned tuna manufacturers in the country, denied the reported shortage in juvenile tuna.

Balain claimed Alliance Tuna has not encountered problems in finding tuna for its canning operations.

He further claimed that since the company started operating in 2004, its annual growth rate has been about 25 percent per year.

"A steady growth in net sales and profits belie the gloom and doom scenario frequently cited in news reports," Balain said in his e-mail to the INQUIRER.

According to Balain, in the first quarter of the current year, Alliance Tuna operated at a 78 percent capacity, much higher than last year's 67 percent.

This figure, he said, increased in the succeeding quarter, from 64 percent last year to 95 percent this year. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao*

Army sues Left leaders for bringing kids to street rallies

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—A SPOKESPERSON of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Western Visayas has filed a complaint at the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) against Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chair Jose Maria Sison and leaders of militant groups here for bringing children to protest rallies.

In a two-page complaint filed before the CHR yesterday, Capt. Lowen Gil Marquez, chief of the AFP's Civil Relations Service in Western Visayas, alleged that militant groups Gabriela, Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and the party-list group Bayan Muna violated the rights of children under Republic Act No. 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act) and Presidential Decree No. 603 (The Child and Youth Welfare Code of the Philippines).

Aside from Sison, named respondents were Boy Bosque, spokesperson of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) in Panay; Wenefredo Dubliso, KMU-Panay spokesperson and Lucy Francisco, regional coordinator of the Gabriela Women's Party.

Marquez claimed that he saw around 100 children age 5-15 years old holding streamers and placards "under the scorching heat of the sun" during the Labor Day protest rallies held at the Iloilo provincial capitol on May 1. The children were among 2,000 protesters that joined the rally and marched in the main streets of the city.

A CHILD plays on empty chairs laid out for a political rally in Makati City. In some areas, the Army said children were being brought to protest rallies as participants. INQUIRER PHOTO

He attached with his complaint pictures, news clippings and video footage of the children attending the rally.

Marquez said that he included Sison, who is in exile in The Netherlands, because the militant groups are among the CPP's alleged "front organizations."

He said protest rallies are "not a good environment" for children below 18 years old because these are usually outpouring of grievances that might confuse the children.

"They are developing potential recruits in the leftist movement," Marquez told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

He said he did not want to prosecute the children, or the parents, but to stop the practice of bringing them to protest rallies.

Militant groups denounced Marquez and denied that they were forcing the children to attend the rallies.

"Their parents bring them to the rallies because no one is left at home to tend for them. We do not force them and we ensure that they are safe and secure and they are made to understand the issues," said Francisco in a telephone interview.

Francisco pointed out that under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children, children have the right to express themselves and peacefully assemble for redress of grievances.

"The parents of these children believe that their children should be part of these protest rallies because the issues that they carry, like joblessness, poverty, low wages and high tuition fees, affect the whole family," said Francisco.

She said Marquez should "stop pretending to be an advocate of children's rights."

"If Marquez is really concerned with the welfare of children, then he should help put a stop to the killings and abduction of activists whose children are agonizing daily if their parents are alive or dead. He should also call for a stop to the massive militarization in the countryside that is victimizing civilians especially women and children," said Francisco.

Bosque said the complaint is part of the AFP's campaign to "harass" militant groups and their leaders by filing criminal complaints similar to the rebellion charges filed against militant lawmakers which were later ordered dismissed by the Supreme Court.

E-jeepneys to hit streets of Bacolod in clean energy bid

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—Come Friday, July the 13th, three electric jeepneys will begin plying the streets of Bacolod City.

The Bacolod City government and the Green Renewable Independent Power Producer (GRIPP) will sign a memorandum of agreement on July 13 to formalize the city's support to the Climate Friendly Cities Project.

The MOA signing will be followed by the launching of three electric jeepneys in Bacolod on the same day, according to Karla Mae de Guia of Solar Generation-Pilipinas.

MODEL and Greenpeace supporter Amanda Griffin drives the first electric-powered jeepney (E-jeep) during its test run in Makati City. The jeeps are set to revolutionize the Philippine's most recognizable icon. REM ZAMORA

The Climate Friendly Cities Project is a joint project of GRIPP with Greenpeace Southeast Asia and Solar Generation (Solarco)-Negros.

The E-jeeps will be initially driven by volunteers of Greenpeace, GRIPP and Solarco, particularly during the three-month pilot period, but drivers will eventually be trained and hired to man the electric-powered jeepneys, said Athena Ballesteros of Greenpeace Philippines.

The jeeps, designed by GRIPP for the Philippines, are manufactured by a company called Langqing based in Guangzhou, China, that has been producing electric vehicles like golf carts, mini-buses and even police cars, Ballesteros said.

Each jeep costs from P500,000 to P550,000 but Ballesteros said they were hoping to get government incentives on custom duties so they could bring down the price.

She said they were also hoping that more people will order the E-jeeps to hasten the lowering of its unit cost.

Politics dirties East Visayas race for regional body chair

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—POLITICS IS messing up the choice for head of the Regional Development Council in Eastern Visayas, pitting the region's governors against Palace officials.

Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone revealed that he and the other governors in the region have committed to support the bid of Leyte Gov. Carlos Jericho Petilla to become the next RDC chair.

Some Malacañang officials, notably Political Adviser Gabriel Claudio, are however, pushing for Calbayog City Mayor Mel Senen Sarmiento to succeed the outgoing RDC chair, former Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias, according to Evardone.

Claudio, who is from Samar, is also the Cabinet Official for Regional Development of Eastern Visayas.

Sources in Malacañang said Claudio was one of the officials being blamed for the TU debacle at the recent elections.

The selection of the next RDC officials will be held next week at the regional office of the National Economic Development Authority.

"We, the governors have already made our commitments to endorse the bid of Governor Petilla. But we were informed that Malacañang favors Mayor Sarmiento to become the RDC chair," Evardone told the INQUIRER.

He did not say why Malacañang favored Sarmiento over Petilla, who was once drafted as a senatorial candidate of Team Unity but who later withdrew to run for governor.

While it is the members of the RDC that nominate who they want to be the chair and vice chair, it is still the President who has the last say as to who she wants to head the RDC.

The RDC is a collegial body from the government and private sectors that recommends, and often pre-approves, the plans and projects for regional development before different funding agencies.

Among the voting members of the RDC are the region's six provincial governors and the mayors of Tacloban, Ormoc, Calbayog and Maasin cities. It is not clear yet if the mayors of the three newly created cities of Baybay (Leyte), Catbalogan (Northern Samar) and Borongan (Samar) are now eligible to sit as voting members of the body.

With the exception of former Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez, all previous chairs of RDC-Eastern Visayas were governors.

Evardone, while admitting that they might find difficulty in their endorsement of the Leyte governor with the reported backing of Malacañang of Mayor Sarmiento, refused to say if it would be a battle of loyalties and strength.

"Let us just see and wait," he said.

Evardone ran for governor in 2004 under the banner of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. but shifted camps when it became clear that President Macapagal-Arroyo will stay in power.

He is now a trusted ally of Ms Arroyo and national spokesperson of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines.

Petilla, who won his reelection bid, openly admitted his desire to become the next RDC chair, saying he is competent enough to hold the position once held by his mother, Remedios "Matin" Petilla.

ROD SPIERS is the Sitel site director. He and his fellow officials said the country had spent too much time debating English fluency when what attracts big business to the Philippines are the high number of college graduates in its work force. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

US firm to jobseekers: It's not the English

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THERE SHOULD be no debate on Filipinos' English language competency because foreign business has been attracted all along to the high number of college graduates in the work force, American investors in the business process outsourcing (BPO) trade said.

Bruce Campbell, Sitel Philippines corporate operations officer, told a news conference here that most skilled workers in the country have college degrees compared to their counterparts in the United States who are only high school graduates.

Dan Reyes, president of the Business Processing Association of the Philippines, said the outsourcing trade would soon rely on these degree holders when call center facilities start servicing clients in the medical and legal fields.

Reyes, who is also Sitel country manager, said the government "should not lose sight of its goal" to sustain English training to "maintain the country's grasp of its competitive advantage."

In Asia, the Philippines is a major English-speaking hub, which is composed of university-trained workers, Campbell said.

Reyes said this advantage is crucial because "a highly-educated workforce... in the disciplines of engineering, math, sciences, legal [affairs], human resources," could be tapped for new call center services, which the BPO trade is just discovering.

Campbell said foreign businesses are impressed by a contemporary culture that values college degrees.

Now that the debate has been harnessed into policies that improve English training here, it was time "for the pendulum to swing back to the center," he said.

The Sitel officials were here to unveil the 5th Sitel Philippines facility at the Baguio City Economic Zone.

Reyes said Sitel had to lower its yearend revenue target from 100 percent in 2006 to 50 percent this year, as a consequence of the strong peso's impact on the trade.

He said the peso strength has hurt Sitel and the BPO trade just when overseas customers have increased their demand for Filipino-based call centers.

The industry is drafting a "road map," which it plans to submit to President Macapagal-Arroyo to secure industry-friendly policies for the next 20 years, Reyes said.

For the moment, he said, Sitel has been focusing on its future work force instead.

This school term, the University of the Cordilleras here is piloting a preparatory course in English proficiency, technical competency and customer relations designed by Sitel.

Rod Spiers, Sitel Baguio site director, said the firm has partnered with UC for a five-year testing project to flesh out a curriculum designed for BPO firms.

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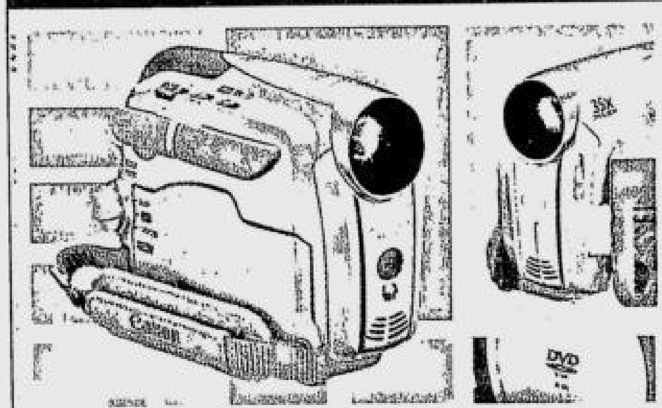

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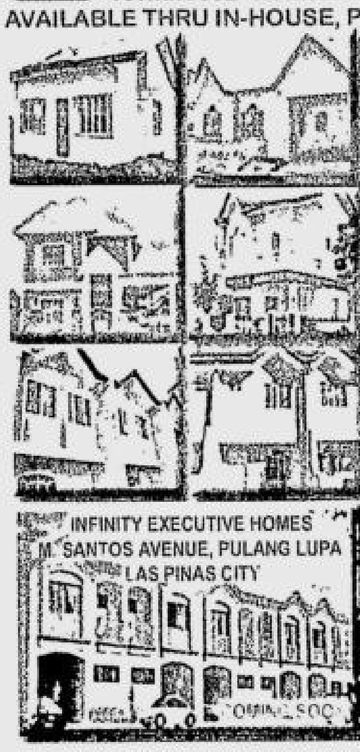

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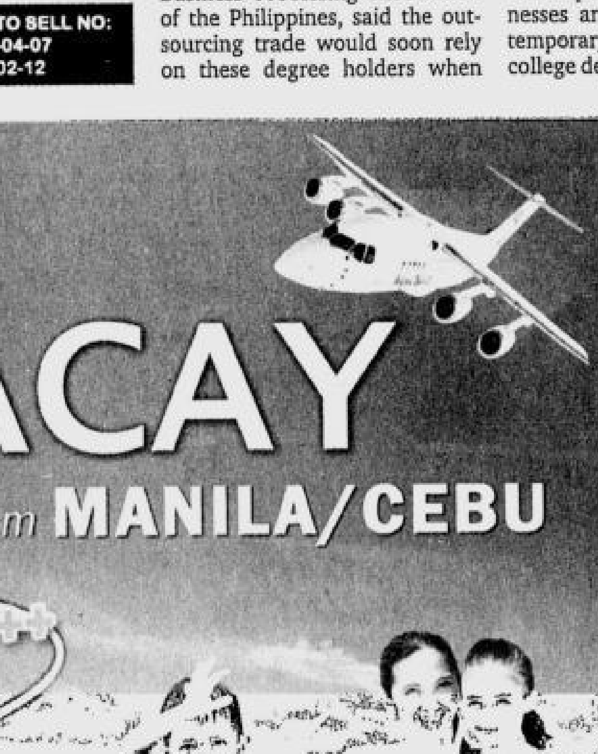

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Bulacan official falls victim to identity theft

CITY OF MALOLOS—AN INTERnational e-mail syndicate based in Nigeria hacked the e-mail account of a Bulacan government official and demanded $3,500 from people in her contact list.

Gladys Sta. Rita, provincial administrator here, said someone used her e-mail account to send messages to her family, friends and colleagues, saying that she badly needed money because she was stranded in West Africa.

Sta. Rita's friends received on June 27 an e-mail with the subject "Please, I Need Your Help!"

The e-mail said Sta. Rita was attending a conference in West Africa when she lost her wallet, ATM card, passport and other valuables.

The person asked Sta. Rita's contacts to send the money through Western Union money gram so she could pay for her hotel accommodation. The e-mail said Sta. Rita begged the hotel management to allow her to stay as she promised to settle the bills in two weeks.

"My fear is that my friends and business contacts who are based abroad may send money to the bank account stated in the e-mail. But in reality, somebody took my identity," she said.

Sta. Rita studied at Harvard University and attended governance seminars, trainings, meetings and classes in many other countries in Europe, but she said she has not visited Nigeria.

She said she learned about the hoax when she received several calls from her contacts in the country and abroad asking her about her whereabouts and to verify if she indeed needed financial help.

Shocked, Sta. Rita tried to open her e-mail account but she was permanently barred from accessing her ID number and password.

She could not access her e-mail account until now.

Rex Mangalindan, head of Bulacan's information technology office, told Sta. Rita that the people behind the scam were experts because they were able to remove any link so their exact location could not be traced.

He said the suspect could have gotten Sta. Rita's password through a scanner in one of her trips abroad where she used computers to open her e-mail.

Sta. Rita appealed to her friends here and abroad to ignore the e-mail and not to send money. *Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon*

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TOP PROGRAMS NATIONWIDE* (Ratings)
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MARIA FLORDELUNA	47.3%
KAPAMILYA DEAL OR NO DEAL	38.8%
YSABELLA	36.7%
WALANG KAPALIT	36.7%
SUPERWIN	31.9%

*AGB-NMR National Urban TV Audience Measurement (NUTAM)

TOP EARLY EVENING NEWSCAST NATIONWIDE* (Ratings)
June 1-30, 2007

TV PATROL WORLD	30.8%
24 Oras	20.8%

TOP TRUE STORY ANTHOLOGY NATIONWIDE* (Ratings)
June 1-30, 2007

MAALAALA MO KAYA	24.4%
Magpakailanman	13.0%

*AGB-NMR National Urban TV Audience Measurement (NUTAM)

TOP WEEKDAY DAYTIME PROGRAMS NATIONWIDE* (Ratings)
June 1-30, 2007

Variety

WOWOWEE	25.6%
PILIPINAS GAME KNB	22.3%
Eat Bulaga	15.9%

Talk

HOMEBOY	12.5%
Sis	9.4%

*AGB-NMR National Urban TV Audience Measurement (NUTAM)

TOP WEEKEND DAYTIME PROGRAMS NATIONWIDE* (Ratings)
June 1-30, 2007

LOVE SPELL	16.0%
ASAP '07	15.6%
THE BUZZ	17.9%

TOP WEEKEND EVENING PROGRAMS NATIONWIDE* (Ratings)
June 1-30, 2007

Fantasy

KOMIKS	28.4%
Fantastic Man	20.0%

Current Affairs

RATED K	27.2%
XXX	25.8%
Kapuso Mo Jessica Soho	22.9%

*AGB-NMR National Urban TV Audience Measurement (NUTAM)

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June 1-30, 2007

Comedy

JOHN EN SHIRLEY	25.5%
Bitoy Tonsuwebot	24.9%

Talk

SHARON	20.5%
Ms. Max Kapit	16.4%

TOP GMA NATIONWIDE RATINGS FOR NATIONWIDE

BANA MAULIT MULI	01.7
MAGING AKO NG IKAW	[illegible]

TOP GMA NATIONWIDE RATINGS FOR NATIONWIDE

MARIA FLORDELUNA	39.3%
LINOY BIG BROTHER	31.0%

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TOP PROGRAMS NATIONWIDE* (Ratings)
July 2-5, 2007

KAPAMILYA DEAL OR NO DEAL	38.2%
YSABELLA	37.3%
TV PATROL WORLD	37.0%
WALANG KAPALIT	35.6%
WHICH STAR ARE YOU FROM	26.2%

TOP PROGRAMS MEGAMANILA* (Ratings)
July 2-5, 2007

KAPAMILYA DEAL OR NO DEAL	30.7%
YSABELLA	29.0%
WALANG KAPALIT	28.6%
Lupin	28.5%
Mga Mata ni Anghelita	28.3%

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Nickel mining faces tough challenge

ONE LAST look at Pujada Bay in Davao Oriental before mining activities in the Hamiguitan mountain Range ensue.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Mati, Davao Oriental

A tribal chief says his people values the 6,800-hectare Mt. Hamiguitan, which is known for its pygmy and mossy forest, and home to the endangered Philippine Eagle

HIS EYES WERE RAZOR-SHARP, but his voice, rising as he stressed a point, was sharper. He warned of a tribal war, if only to protect the natural habitat of the Mt. Hamiguitan range against the threat of mining.

In a recent small-group meeting in Sitio Wagon, Barangay Macambol, Mandaya Datu Mamaon Victor Aying said declaring a tribal war would be his last and, perhaps, most powerful option if the plan of the foreign mining firm BHP Billiton to open a nickel mining project pushed through.

"The interest of the people and our concern for the environment must be the primary consideration here. I will be compelled to declare a tribal war if it is the best way for us to stop the possible destruction, if we are pushed against the wall," Aying said.

Every now and then, "lumad" residents around the Pujada Bay off Davao Oriental gather to discuss the upcoming operations of the mining company and how they can stop it. A number of mining companies are keen on operating in Hamiguitan, which straddles the towns of Gov. Generoso, San Isidro and Mati.

Aying's group has always been vocal about its opposition despite the government's blessing to the industry as an engine of economic growth.

Fishing community

"They have known all these times that we are against this as we have also been opposing the logging operations. The problem with the government is its bias for big and moneyed companies, leaving us nowhere in their priorities," Aying said.

About 80 percent of the residents of Macambol rely primarily on fishing for their livelihood, the tribal leader said.

"What will happen to the sea? What will happen to the mountain? What will happen to us? They could be giving some residents here jobs and paying back the government huge taxes but what will they leave us? Destruction," Aying said.

He said his people valued the natural habitat of Hamiguitan, their source of food and water. The 6,800-hectare mountain, known for its pygmy and mossy forest, is also home to the endangered Philippine Eagle.

According to the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCCARD), five endangered species of plants are found in Hamiguitan, on top of the 27 rare, 44 endemic, and 59 ecologically important species in the wildlife sanctuary.

The same agency classified Hamiguitan as "montane forest," because of the presence of different kinds of mosses, lichens and epiphytes.

In its website, the PCCARD said Hamiguitan is the only mountain in Mindanao unique for its bonsai forest. In July 2004, President Macapagal-Arroyo signed Republic Act No. 9303 declaring the mountain range and its vicinities protected under the category of wildlife sanctuary.

Protected seascape

The Pujada Bay, covering at least 21,000 hectares, was also declared a protected seascape and landscape under Presidential Proclamation No. 431 in 1994. It is the major source of livelihood of the many coastal communities of Mati. It is also home to a number of endangered marine species such as sea cows, turtles and stingrays.

Since 2004, Davao Oriental has observed the Pujada Festival to generate public awareness on the "alarming degeneration" of the bay.

But a year after Hamiguitan was declared a protected area, then Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun approved the mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) applications of four mining companies—Hopewell Mining Corp., P.L. Goldman Mining and Development Corp., Blue Ridge Minerals and Development Corp. and St. Patrick Mining and Development Corp.

Michael Defensor, who replaced Gozun as environment secretary, approved the MPSAs of Galactica Mining and Development Corp., Mt. Peak Mining and Development Corp. and Oregon Mining and Development Corp.

The seven mining companies have been allowed to operate within a total of 17,572.76 hectares.

The Mine Management Division of the Mine and Geosciences Bureau said that if mining operations in Hamiguitan pushed through, these would be out of the mountain range's buffer zone. These will only be concentrated in Mati's Macambol, Cabuaya and the nearby villages, it said.

Maximo Lim, acting division chief, said the agreements issued to the mining companies had been "excised because they cover the protected area."

World's biggest miner

The original seven firms have regrouped into two—Hallmark Mining Corp. and AustralAsia Link Mining Corp., he said. The two entered into a partnership with BHP Billiton of Australia and the United Kingdom, the world's biggest mining company.

BHP Billiton reportedly intends to invest about $1.5 billion in nickel extraction.

Right now, the company is exploring outside the protected area, Lim said. By 2010, mining operations might start, he said, and by then, BHP Billiton must submit as prerequisite the results of its project feasibility study, including social acceptability.

A consultation meeting conducted by top officials of BHP Billiton with the villagers in January last year showed public opposition contrary to the report made by company president Don Argus in London last year.

Prof. David Brereton, director of the Social Responsibility in Mining of Australia's Queensland University, documented the consultation and showed how the people of Macambol opposed the project.

Brereton's paper, which quoted extensively Phillip Hopkins, group manager for regional development, states that the company may yet to decide whether or not to develop a mine in the area after its exploration process.

Mining practices in RP

The Brereton paper also notes the irresponsible mining practices conducted in the Philippines.

"Much of the mining in the Philippines up until now has not been responsible, but this did not have to be the case in the future. If BHP Billiton does decide to develop a mine, this will be done responsibly," Hopkins said.

"The company's reputation is very important and it would not do anything that would undermine this reputation. No mining will be undertaken in the Mt. Hamiguitan area."

As if to calm down the people, Hopkins boasted during the consultation meeting that BHP Billiton would follow very "strict engineering standards and the mine and the plant would be designed to minimize the risk of any damage to the environment."

Rehabilitation, he also said, would be conducted "progressively" to help minimize the "footprints of the mine."

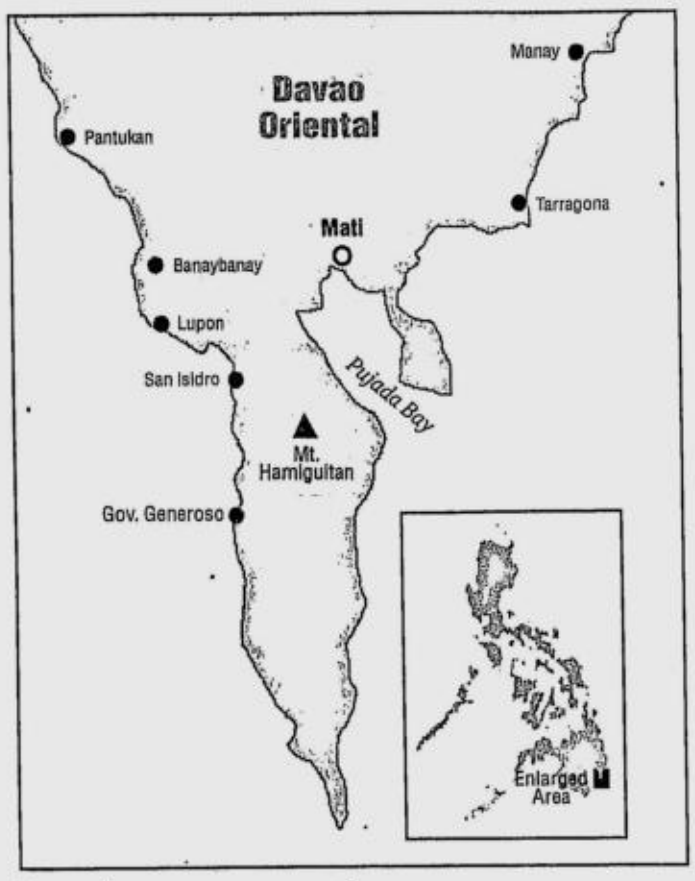
Hopkins said a tailings dam would be built, covered and revegetated when the mine would be closed.

"All the areas that would be used in the processing would be contained on-site and would not have any impact on the waterways," the BHP Billiton official said.

Despite this, the plan of BHP Billiton is an apparent threat to the richness of Hamiguitan and that of the Pujada Bay, Aying said.

Ultimately, it is a threat to their lives, he said.

"Declaring war is the only way for us to save the forest, the Pujada Bay, and ourselves. Right now, as they are preparing to desecrate the environment here, we are also gathering strength for us to fight back ... it is our only recourse," Aying said.



MINING exploration in Mt. Hamiguitan range leaves an ugly sight.

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For Sulu teacher, road to peace is via the Net

By Mozart Pastrano
Contributor

FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER ISNAJI S. SIRAJI of Sulu, the road to peace is through the Internet.

For an hour on weekdays, he opens the computer room in his school to the community at large. And who would come streaming in but Army officers and soldiers from the 53rd and 33rd Battalions.

The computers have become pathways to peace as the military men rub elbows with public high school students and teachers logging onto the Internet.

"They check their e-mail, chat with family and friends, and even surf the Net—free of charge," the tall, burly 36-year-old Tausug teacher said.

Siraji is the information technology (IT) coordinator at the Maimbung National High School Annex in Maimbung, Sulu, where there is a general wariness, if not outright contempt, for the military's presence.

Maimbung, after all, is home to what locals call the "freedom fighters" of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). Nur Misuari's first and second wives come from this town.

"For us here on the island, we are still waiting for peace to arrive. We feel it is not yet at hand," Siraji said.

Only a stone's throw away from Siraji's school in barangay Matatal is a Philippine Army camp.

Instead of peace and order, the residents here had come to equate the military's presence with "trouble" and "disturbance."

As the previous school year was coming to an end, for instance, the main campus of Maimbung National High School was transformed overnight into a refugee camp following an encounter between the military and alleged Abu Sayyaf bandits, said Gaber Asamli Ubaid, 29, who is the IT coordinator on the main campus.

The computers which are the responsibility of Siraji and Ubaid happen to be the only Internet-connected computers in the area.

"Cable TV and cellular phone signals are available mainly in Jolo, some 16 km away, so in effect we are the only way people here can get connected to the outside world," Siraji said of his "Internet café."

The critical role of the school in community affairs and development was acknowledged by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) when, through the Computer Literacy and Internet Connection (CLIC) program of Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM 2), the school was given 10 Internet-connected computers and other peripherals.

The Internet connection is via satellite.

"We have provided an Internet connection to 580 schools in only three years, and the work goes on," said Michael Langsdorf, head of GEM 2's education and governance division, which runs the CLIC program.

To date, the CLIC program has reached 546,052 students and 14,588 teachers in 27 provinces and cities in Mindanao, mainly in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and other conflict-affected areas.

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Environmental warriors save Mother Earth one day at a time

By Marie T. Dimapilis
Contributor

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT only in vogue these days; it's a must if entrepreneurship is to thrive in this supposed Third World setting we call the Philippines.

Anyone who grew up collecting kraft paper products, folksy clay sculptures, planners, magnets, rag dolls, dried flower wreaths, T-shirts, "katsa" bags, and quaint, oftentimes cutesy, items manufactured by Papemelroti will realize that its advocacy and commitment to the country and the environment are nothing new.

Ahead of their time

"Reduce, reuse, recycle" has long been its philosophy even when it was probably kitsch to be so.

Owned and run by the Alejandro siblings Patsy Paterno, 50; Peggy Lasa, 49; Meldy Fider, 45; Robert, 43 and Tina, 37; Papemelroti's country-style shops—famed for their brown paper bags and other things recyclable—are a testament to the Christian (Roman Catholic and Methodist), people-focused upbringing of their parents, Socorro "Korit" Alviola and Ben "Benny" Alejandro.

The couple formed Korben (a combination of the first syllable of their nicknames) Corp. in the late '60s and launched what was once a small-scale enterprise in a quiet area of Tomas Morato in Quezon City.

ENVIRONMENTAL/ A22

SINGING the praises of the environment are the Alejandros: (from bottom to top) Benny, Korit, Meldy, Peggy, Robert, Patsy and Tina.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

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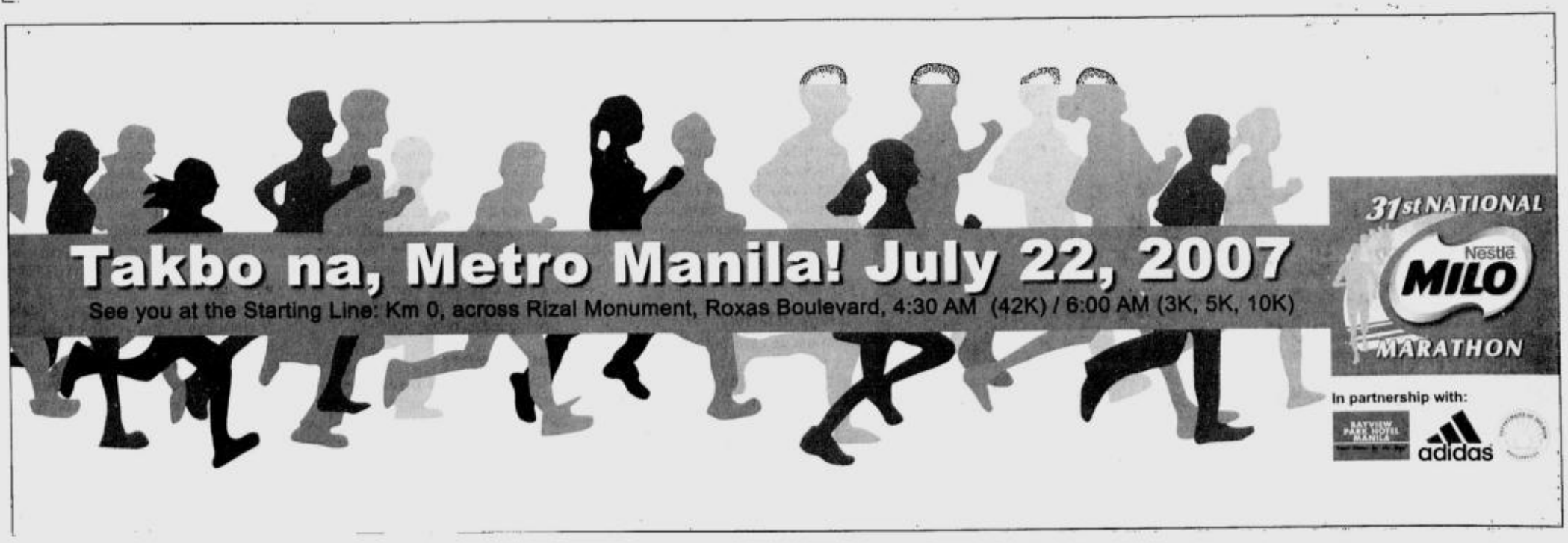


Blind teacher helps the blind lead normal lives

By Marlet D. Salazar

LEBYNNE GAAN SAYS SHE IS A techno phobe.

But that has not stopped her from using her skills to help other visually impaired people like her to live as normal a life as possible.

Gaan teaches basic computer skills and Braille to preschool and elementary students at the Resources for the Blind (RBI) in Cubao, Quezon City, a nonprofit charitable organization offering services nationwide to the blind.

From client to worker

A former regular "client" of RBI, Gaan started out as a receptionist. She was later asked to teach, becoming a RBI employee in 2002 after completing a computer course at the Adaptive Technology for Rehabilitation, Integration and Empowerment of the Visually Impaired (ATRIEV).

ATRIEV is a Quezon City-based nongovernment organization offering a computer literacy program for blind people. Gaan has a degree in English from Trinity College, also in Quezon City.

"My friend convinced me to enroll in the computer course," Gaan said. She considers herself techno phobic because she easily panics when she presses the buttons.

Now, she helps children learn basic computer skills so they can surf the Internet, among other things.

Visually impaired individuals use the software called JAWS (Job Access for Speech) for Windows to help them use the computer. It is basically a screen reader that tells the user what is on the computer monitor or what application is being used.

Although quite expensive, the software has proven to be a big help for those eager to use the computer.

RBI is now experimenting with a more affordable software that can be carried around in a flash disk-type device.

Gaan learned to operate the computer as a student of ATRIEV.

She learned Braille at Batino Elementary School in Project 3, Quezon City, a regular school with a Special Education Center. When she entered college, her mother gave up her job in direct selling to accompany her to school.

"If you will notice, there are no SPED centers in colleges and universities because, when you reach college, you must already have the skills to become independent," she told the INQUIRER.

She also pointed out that some universities did not accept blind students.

Gaan's blindness was caused by rubella (German measles), which her mother contracted when she was pregnant with her. The family learned of her condition when she was three months old after they noticed white lines in her eyes. She completely lost her sight after college.

Gaan said did not escape the occasional teasing and bullying by other kids but she just shrugged them off "because they are kids and some of them don't understand."

During the last school break, Gaan tutored several preschoolers to prepare them for the opening of this school year.

She teaches not only visually impaired kids but also those with multiple handicaps. Some kids, she noted, had behavior problems or other physical problems.

To avoid losing her patience with her students, Gaan said she thought of how patient her teachers were with her. "That gives me the tolerance to deal with difficult students," she said.

She tries different approaches in dealing with her students. One student, for example, likes to talk and tell her stories. "I just let her talk for a while before I proceed with the lesson. They are kids, after all," she said.

"Here in RBI, we encourage them to attend regular schools," Gaan said. "What I do is basically tutorial or one-on-one teaching."

Ideal teacher

She said she believed the best person to teach a visually impaired person "is also a visually impaired one."

"It is not only because we understand their needs but our experience gives them the reassurance that the learning process won't be as hard as they think it would be," she added.

"As a teacher, I have to first understand that I'm teaching blind students," she said. "I describe to them in detail what I am teaching to give them an idea of what I'm talking about.

"I cannot say 'this,' 'those,' or 'that' because they won't be able to comprehend what I'm saying," she added.

Gaan said she encouraged parents to be in the room where she conducted the tutorial not only to get them involved but also to help her look after their child. There were times, she said, when a student would just leave the room without asking permission.

She said she felt great teaching children no matter how difficult things could be at times.

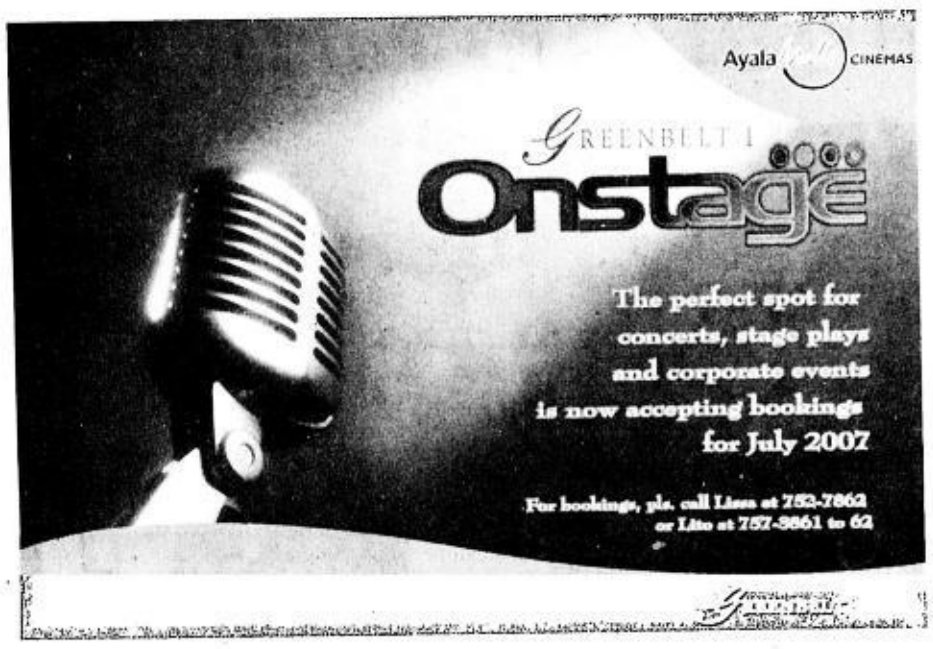
"I feel great when I see improvements in them," she said, "and when they tell their parents, 'I learned this from teacher.'"

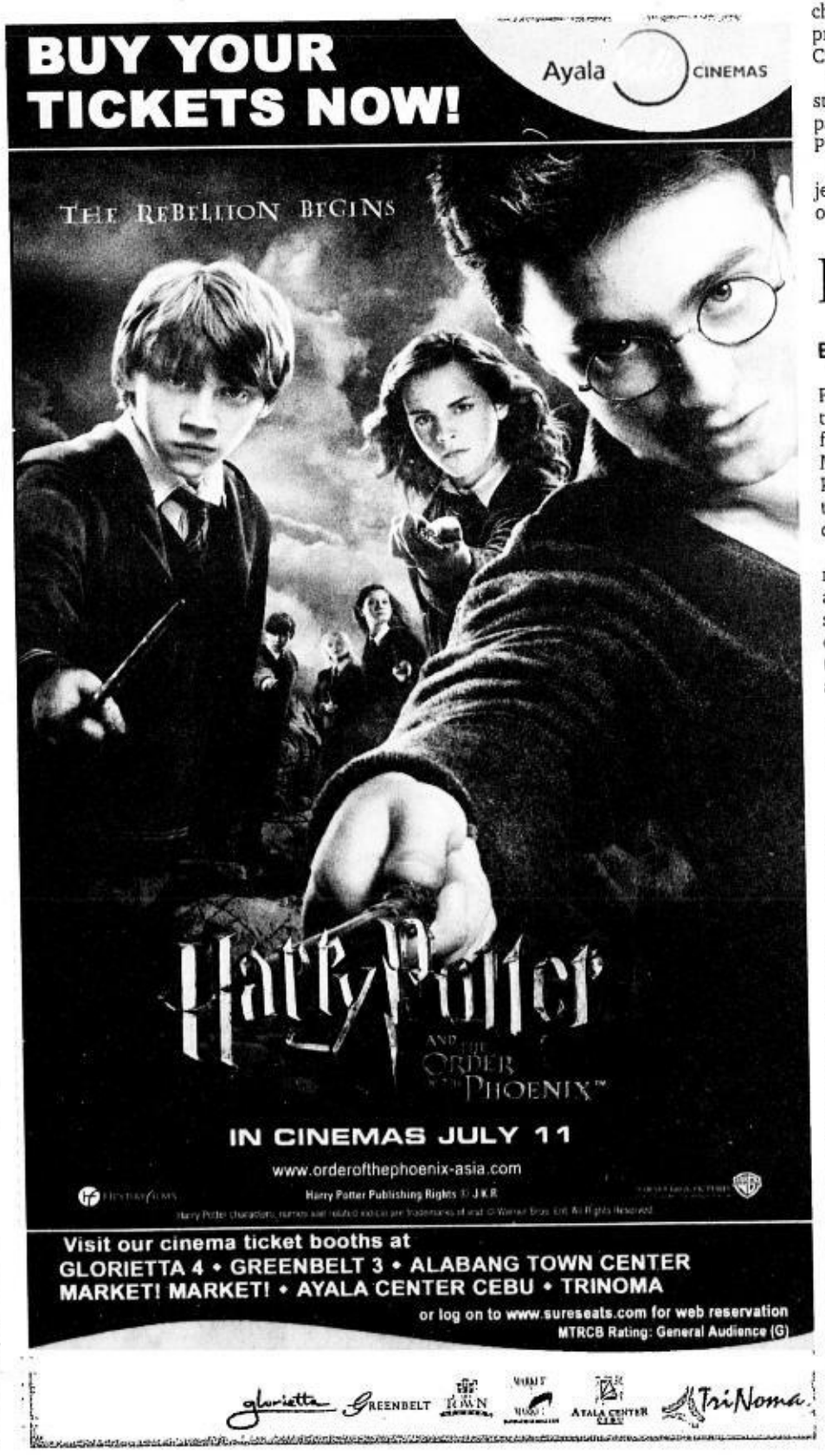
Gaan related how one child kept telling her, "I love you, teacher." It truly warmed her heart because she knew her efforts were appreciated.

The middle child in a brood of three, Gaan is accompanied by her father, a former watchman, when she goes to work.

Gaan said she intended to develop other activities that would interest her students and help them appreciate more what she taught them.

LEBYNNE Gaan believes that the best teacher for a person who is blind is someone who is also blind. AUGUST DELA CRUZ





Black is 'in' among car thieves in Quezon City

By Jeannette I. Andrade

OWNERS OF BLACK VEHICLES IN Quezon City, beware.

According to city police chief, Senior Supt. Magtanggol Gatdula, car thieves, for some unexplained reason, often target vehicles, particularly sports utility vehicles, that are black.

Gatdula said their observation was bolstered by the recent arrest of members of the Tablante car theft syndicate.

"Maybe it is easier for them to sell. Maybe they think that black is a macho and sleek color that men would prefer," the director of the Quezon City Police District said.

He noted that the Tablante Group stole three black Mitsubishi Pajeros parked on the University of the Philippines Diliman campus.

One of the stolen Mitsubishi Pajeros, with license plate APL 313 owned by Atoy Laynes, was recovered last Wednesday in a police raid from the alleged lair of the syndicate in Barangay Batasan Hills.

The Pajero was equippped with a global positioning system (GPS) tracking device which enabled policemen to determine its location.

During the raid, the police found the official registration and certificate of registration for another black Pajero, owned by a UP student identified as Areceli Yanu.

Gatdula, however, said that owners of black cars need not worry but should take security measures to ensure that their vehicles would be safe from car thieves.

"Most of the time, these cars are stolen because of simple carelessness on their owners' part. It is important to make sure that car owners park only in secure areas," he stressed.

He pointed out that there are many measures that can be undertaken to prevent vehicles from being stolen like installing a car alarm or a steering wheel lock.

"We just have to take the necessary precautions," the QCPD director emphasized.

Meanwhile, Traffic Management Group chief, Director Errol Pan, told the INQUIRER that the Tablante Group has been in their watch list since the 1990s, mostly for their car theft activities in Central Luzon.

"At least three Tablante brothers and their father are in our list for their suspected involvement in car theft activities," Pan said, pointing out that he was still a police major when he first heard of the Tablantes.

The Tablante Group is named after the suspected ringleaders of the syndicate, brothers Rico and Leonardo Tablante, who own a car exchange business and a bar in Quezon City. Leonardo was arrested in Wednesday's raid.

Lim to GMA: No chaos in Mendiola

By Tina G. Santos

FOLLOWING HIS DECLARATION that he would allow protesters to set foot on Mendiola once again, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim yesterday assured President Macapagal-Arroyo that there would be no chaos in the city during his term.

"I assured her that there would be no trouble in Malacañang as long as I am the mayor, that's my official responsibility," Lim, a known supporter of deposed President Joseph Estrada, told reporters who asked him what he and Ms Arroyo talked about.

The two met yesterday at the opening of Sentro ng Karunungan (Center of Skills), a skills training center for students and out-of-school youth in Tayuman, Manila.

The President was also heard praising Lim as someone who is known for implementing peace and order.

Lim, whom Estrada endorsed when he ran for mayor last May, earlier announced that Mendiola would be open once again to militant groups who want to make their voices heard.

However, rallies should be held only on weekends and holidays, so as not to inconvenience students and motorists, he added.

During the term of Lim's predecessor, former Mayor Lito Atienza, Mendiola was declared a no-rally zone because of its proximity to the Palace.

To avoid any misunderstanding, Lim, the Manila Police District and the Presidential Security Group yesterday agreed on certain rules in the conduct of rallies in the area.

Under the rules of engagement, the PSG will strictly observe the "no permit, no rally" policy, and deny permission to any group who wants to hold a protest if it senses an immediate threat of violence.

Environmental warriors . . .

From page A21

From there, the first Papemelroti (a combination of the first syllables of their children's first names) branch opened in Ali Mall Cubao "when I was 20," recalls Patsy.

Borne out of a love of "locally-made things which we collected," it was also an exercise in discipline the parents instilled in their children: Filipinism, artistic/business smarts.

Pack rats all (Korit: "We don't throw things away"), world-class raconteurs, and self-admitted "cheapskates," their lives have been carefully documented through journals, scrap booking, the Web and a prayerful (but discerning, observant) existence.

Talented family

Talent is certainly not wasted on the Alejandros. Witness environmental "guerrilla" Tina and Peggy's paper product designs, Robert's quirky, fanciful pen-and-ink artworks on cards and cotton wear, etc., Korit's hand-fashioned dried-flower wreaths and Meldy's resin sculptures/jewelry.

Growing up, Patsy slowly assumed the role of design taskmaster-cum-"dictator" while the rest fueled their energies into an artistic democracy. Red clay molding sessions were a regular activity. "Taskmaster by default," adds an amused Robert. Benny is the guidance overseer who still manages to indulge in admiring his garden's bounty (composting, shredding) in Quezon City.

With trips abroad, "we discovered we became more conscious of the materials we were using for our products," observes Patsy. Pinewood (palo china) for the furniture line is sourced from shipping crates. Pads are made from the very same paper used for "*pambalot ng pandesal* (paper bag for bread)." Initially, though, the pads were printed out of white paper due to the smooth-paper-is-best mindset of the '80s.

Nature lovers

Call them Nature freaks. The whole family (in-laws, grandchildren and relatives included) shares an avowed passion for eco-traveling (Punta Fuego, Subic, among others), fishing, sailing, snorkeling, hiking. Some are members or supporters of Haribon Foundation, Wildbirds Club of the Philippines and Planet Patrol. Outreach and livelihood programs (such as He Cares Foundation in Rodriguez, Rizal) are part of their businesses agenda.

Says Korit, "People don't have to do big things to contribute to saving the planet." We've always been reminded to never litter the streets with fast-food and all sorts of refuse, pollute the waters with plastic shopping bags and abuse our carbon print index. Recyling centers abound, but some still throw gum, sandwich wrappers on sidewalks and in alleys.

Here are tips for the ecological soul: "Segregate your trash," advises Tina, who has written a compact "Earth Savers" book ideal for gifting. Meldy: "I close the lights when I leave the bathroom or bedroom. Peggy: "Turn off the running faucet." Coastal cleanup projects in Manila Bay, Batangas and Cavite are just some of the activities the Alejandros volunteer for.

One doesn't even have to be an Al Gore to be as global warming-vigilant.

And that's the significant, Filipino truth, as this family has shown in thought, word and deed.

"SA LAKI ng tulong ng mga OFW sa ating ekonomiya, nararapat na hindi lamang pagaanin ng pamahalaan ang gastos sa pagpapadala ng pera kung hindi pati bigyan sila at kanilang pamilya ng kahit pakunswelo mula sa bangko at remittance companies."

NOLI DE CASTRO, *November 2006*

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

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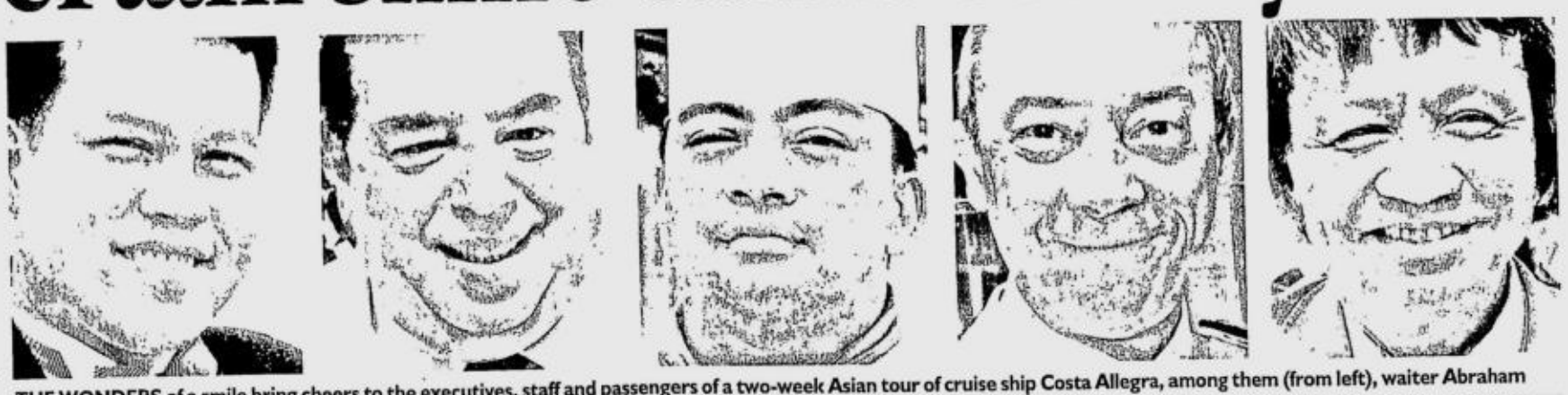
This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

That certain smile calms stormy seas

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.



THE WONDERS of a smile bring cheers to the executives, staff and passengers of a two-week Asian tour of cruise ship Costa Allegra, among them (from left), waiter Abraham Gaerlan, hotel director Loris Angelis, chef Henry Magmanlac, ship captain Giancarlo Cha and shipping bigwig Paris Macarayan. RODEL ROTONI

THERE IS SOMEthing in their smile. They are described as smart and hardworking. And this is what really endears the 86 Filipinos working in an Italian cruise ship to their bosses and fellow workers.

They are always smiling, says Italian Loris De Angelis, who is the hotel director of the eight-deck cruise ship Costa Allegra.

Need proof: Filipinos are the biggest group on board the ship, which also employs Italians, Chinese, Indians, Romanians, Americans and other foreign nationals, he adds.

Ship crew members wear nameplates bearing not only their names, but also the flags of their countries. Sitting in the dining hall, spotting the Philippine Flag is easy.

Ship captain Giancarlo Cha, also an Italian, says he gets good feedback about Filipino workers from their passengers, mostly Europeans, who cannot speak English.

Cha says Filipinos learn very quickly and can fix small problems easily. But he says the charm really comes from their natural smile.

Fantastic

The smile seems to be contagious: De Angelis smiles as he talks about his Filipino crew members. "They are fantastic," he tells the INQUIRER.

Costa Allegra was in Manila for the first time. It stayed for a few hours as groups of passengers went to either Tagaytay City or Intramuros as part of the ship's two-week Asian tour. Cruisers each paid up to $3000, depending on the accommodations, for the tour which included stops in Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and other Asian countries.

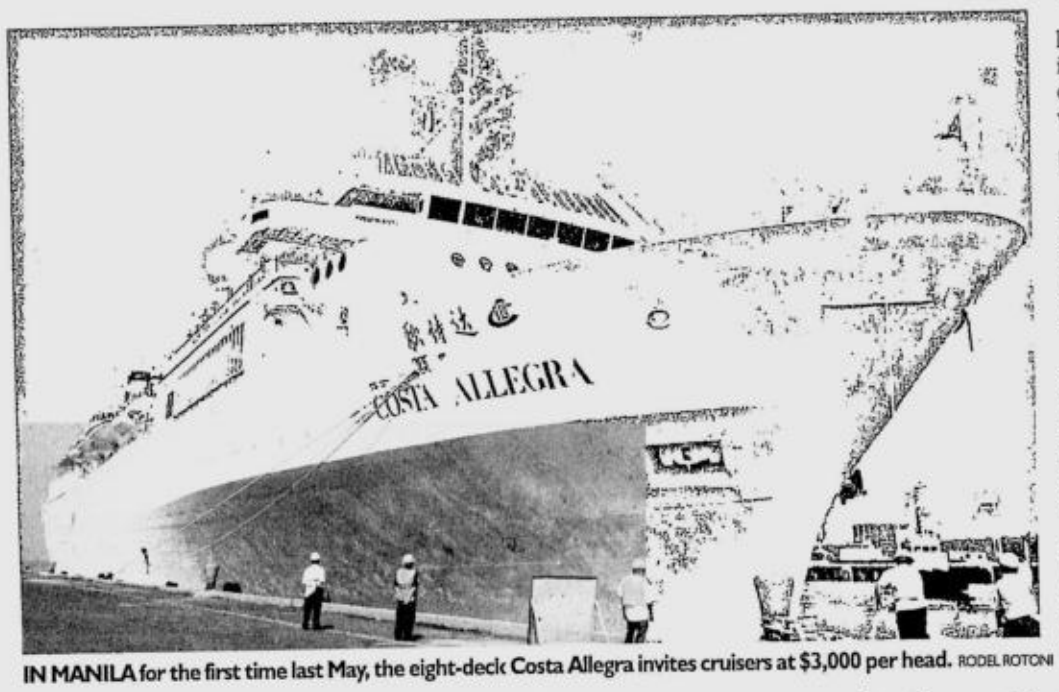
Filipino workers in the ship, like 33-year-old Abraham Gaerlan, whose family is based in Caloocan City, have all the reason to smile.

Gaerlan, who never finished college, started working as a waiter for the cruise company in 2003. He now earns close to P100,000 a month.

He used to work for upscale restaurants in Makati City, earning P8,000 monthly, until some friends encouraged him to try applying in a manpower agency deploying workers to Italian cruise company Costa Crociere Group, which operates 15 cruise vessels, including Costa Allegra, in Europe, South America and now in Asia.

"I told myself nothing will happen to me here in the country," says Gaerlan, the youngest of eight children.

Four years later, still single, he had already bought a house and lot in La Union. He can now buy his own car. He gets to travel the world.



IN MANILA for the first time last May, the eight-deck Costa Allegra invites cruisers at $3,000 per head. RODEL ROTONI

Hard work, dedication

Work is hard, of course. Not only is Gaerlan away from his family eight months of the year. He also works seven days a week, 11 hours a day, most of the time standing, attending to the needs of diners.

The consolation is, hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed in the ship. From the lowest rank of third cook, 34-year-old Henry Magmanlac is now a Sous Chef C, just a few ranks away from being the ship's executive chef.

His family is based in Laguna. His parents actually wanted him to work abroad just like his siblings and relatives so they made him take nursing in college. But he never finished the course.

His passion for cooking prevailed and it was worth it.

He now gets to drop by many countries around the world when the ship docks, so he is able to visit restaurants, taste their food and practice cooking them, expanding his talent. He also earns more than P120,000 monthly, bonuses not included.

Chief cook is Pinoy

His specialties are *paella* and onion soup, dishes which have earned him the admiration of many passengers. "My boss would ask why my *paella* tastes differently when we use the same ingredients. I really don't know," he says.

He is also now in charge of preparing Italian pasta and soup for special orders, outranking many Italian cooks on board. It has earned him their ire.

"They are questioning my promotion. They said how could I be head of the pasta unit when I am not an Italian," he says.

Too late. His talent for learning recipes quickly after tasting a dish or just after observing the preparation has long earned him the trust of his bosses.

"The chief cook for the food served to all crew members is also Filipino," De Angelis says, so once in a while he gets to taste Filipino food. His favorites: ginger soup and *adobo*.

Ship waiter Florin Birau, a 35-year-old Romanian, also speaks fondly of his Filipino coworkers: "They are a great people. They are very helpful. You can trust them."

He quickly adds: "They are very funny."

He says Filipinos love to entertain people. They would be among the first to sing and dance for the cruisers during presentations.

Filipinos are also the quickest to learn foreign languages, endearing them to passengers who could only speak Italian, French or Spanish, De Angelis adds.

"Filipinos are better than anybody else in mixing Italian, English and Spanish," he says.

Testimonial

The good news is Costa Crociere is planning to hire more Filipino workers, he adds: "All of us (officials), we request Filipinos because they are a familiar people for us."

"It helps that Filipinos and Italians share the same religion and almost the same culture (the Philippines being under Spanish rule for over 300 years)," he says.

Magsaysay Maritime Corporation assistant vice president Paris Macarayan says the entire Costa Crociere Group now employs 4,221 Filipinos.

"It is an achievement for the local agency, which recruits and trains workers here exclusively for the cruise company, considering that when the partnership began nine years ago, the company only hired 30 Filipino workers."

Flashing a smile, he says the consistent rise is a testament how good Filipinos are.

'Pinoy Cinderella' in Saudi builds mall in Guagua, spa in Pasay

By Emman Cena

HE COULD HAVE STAYED IN the United States where his family is or in the burning deserts of Saudi Arabia to rake in more money. But Mike Bolos opts to stay home and walk on the road less-traveled.

"I've had enough overseas. Life's comfort is obviously there but I'd like to get old here," Mike Bolos tells the INQUIRER in an interview.

Turning 53, Bolos obviously had enjoyed the prime of his life toiling 25 years as an accountant and chief financial officer in several companies in Saudi.

All the best he had. But in 2005, he decided to return and settle to where, he says, his heart is.

"I'd rather spend whatever earnings I have here," says Bolos who has put up a spa center in Manila and a commercial building in his hometown, Guagua, Pampanga.

The spa which started in August, 2005 employs 18 women, whom he says could have ended as domestic helpers had they gone abroad.

"They were merely high school graduates but they earn here as much as P20,000 monthly as masseuse," he adds.

The P60-million, 3-story commercial building, on one hand, is expected to be in full swing this month. It will house various establishments such as a dance studio, Internet café, a 7-11 convenience store and a modern American-patterned dental clinic run by one of his children.

"The mall type building will be the center of life (in Guagua). This is my way of paying back the people I grew up with. This will be a one-stop shop," he adds.

Formula for success

But the success of Bolos didn't happen in a blink of an eye.

"I was good in numbers and they never failed me throughout. But of course, it was sheer determination, hardwork and patience," he says.

His is a classic Cinderella story. He climbed the corporate ladder from being an ordinary Accounting board passer.

It was his brother who was looking for a job abroad but it was Bolos who was given the chance.

At 21, he worked as an accountant in a travel agency in Riyadh where he stayed for two years. He later moved to a healthcare company, the Gama Services Ltd., where he spent 23 years. He left Gama as corporate assistant comptroller.

At an early age, Mike learned how to juggle work with academics as business administration student at the University of the East.

But the hard times didn't stop him from dreaming of a brighter life for his family. It actually was one of the goading forces behind his success.

He graduated valedictorian in high school which qualified him for a business course at the University of Santo Tomas.

But after a year in UST, he decided to transfer to the University of the East where schedules were more suitable to him as a working student. After graduating and passing the CPA boards, he left the country in 1980.

He also had his own family to miss, being married to a fellow *Kapampangan* at an early age. "My first two years were miserable because I had no idea of the culture of the place. I was young and was thinking that things are done as they were done in the Philippines."

But he eventually learned the ropes, he says. He later learned how to throw his hat into the fray, so to speak. He performed well ahead of his co-workers. He started earning good money, was provided free house and car by the company. "Everything was free. A lot of freebies. So my monthly check goes to my family tax-free," he recalls. In fact, he admits, he was one of the highest paid Filipinos in Saudi at that time.

Children far from me

"Given a chance I would have tried to work out my relationship with my children. They grew up far from me. We've gone on our ways," Bolos says.

Two of his kids are now in the US. Michelle, the eldest has a family of her own while Michael, 20, is studying law in Chicago. The middle child, Madelaine, is helping him run the family business in Guagua.

Business secret

Asked his business secret, Bolos could only say, "There are a lot of opportunities here. But the sad part is that the money that Filipinos work hard for are going to the hands of the rich people, most of them foreigners."

TIME TO RELAX. Mike Bolos builds the Bay Spa on Macapagal Boulevard in Pasay City after working for 25 years in Saudi Arabia, where he was probably one of the highest-paid Filipino workers. ALANAH TORRALBA

These days, Bolos says he gets himself busy by doing the rounds of his businesses. He rarely gets rest days. "I don't even have time to watch TV. I am always in front of my computer. I wake up at 8 a.m. to check emails then my day ends at about 3 a.m."

"Until I get my team in place then I'd finally take a break," he says. He is currently hiring people to man his commercial center in Guagua. "I'm happy but not content. I have a lot more things that I've wanted to do but not for myself though."

Did he ever think of running for public office? "Yes, I've received feedback from some of my townmates. But it's not really my turf. I'll help out as a private individual."

US stops issuing employment visa until Oct. 1

IMFO

Lourdes Santos Tancinco

THOUSANDS OF APPLICANTS for US immigrant visas based on employment petitions rejoiced last month upon release of the monthly Visa Bulletin by the State Department indicating that visas were to be made available beginning July 1.

As a result of this official pronouncement, significant numbers of visa applicants prepared to file their applications for immigrant visas. To their dismay this week, US State Department issued an official statement on July 2 stating that they are updating and revising their July Visa Bulletin and that no more visas will be issued until the start of the fiscal year which is on Oct. 1. The US Department of Homeland Security also announced that they are not accepting employment-based applications for this month of July.

The reversal of the official announcement of the US Department of State is unprecedented. It affected and caused outrage to individuals, businesses and immigration attorneys who had spent the last two weeks rushing to file applications in reliance of the July Visa Bulletin released last month. Thousands of dollars were also incurred in legal fees and other application related expense in preparation of their immigrant applications based on that monthly visa bulletin. A lawsuit is expected to be filed by immigration attorneys against the US Department of State and the US Department of Homeland Security for violation of current pertinent regulations.

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, of Silicon Valley, and chair of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law released an open letter to the US Department of Homeland Security and the US Department of State to reconsider their position.

According to Congresswoman Lofgren, "by taking this unprecedented mid-month update, the Departments of State and Homeland Security have seriously undermined the stability and predictability of US immigration law. This update sets a terrible precedent, and undermines our nation's efforts to foster legal and orderly immigration."

The sudden reversal of this official announcement was caused by the "sudden backlog reduction efforts" by the US Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) which is the federal agency that processes applications in the US. The Department of State had initially estimated that 60,000 visas would be made available.

However, subsequent to the Department of State issuance of the original July visa bulletin making visas available, the USCIS suddenly requested more visa numbers in the last two weeks of June for pending employment petition applications even if these applications have not been approved yet resulting in the non availability of visas for July 2007.

For those who have heard the news in the past week, including those who read my article in this column dated July 1, I regret any inconvenience caused by my reliance on the State Department's original July Visa Bulletin. For now, the expectation is that no visas will be available for employment-based petitions until the next fiscal year which starts on Oct. 1, when new numbers for employment-based immigrant visas are expected to be released.

The US Department of State is responsible for administering the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) related to the numerical limitations on immigrant visa issuances. It establishes the cut-off dates and numerical availability of visas monthly on or about the 8th of each month. The visa bulletins are published every month and may be checked on line at their website www.travel.state.gov.

IMFO stands for Immigration Information. Email Tancinco at law@tancinco.com

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Iraqi doctor charged over UK bombings

LONDON,—BRITISH POLICE CHARGED FRIDAY a first suspect, a 27-year-old Iraqi doctor, over two failed car bombings in London and a third botched attack at Glasgow airport last weekend.

Bilal Abdulla, one of eight people so far arrested over the attempted attacks, will appear on Saturday in a central London court charged with conspiring to cause explosions.

Abdulla, a doctor at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley, Scotland, was arrested after he and Kafeel Ahmed, rammed a Jeep Cherokee packed with nails and gas canisters into the main terminal at Glasgow airport on Saturday.

A senior security source told AFP that the attack was unplanned and implemented out of "sheer desperation" because police were closing in.

Ahmed, an Indian national who was reportedly the driver of the Jeep is fighting for his life in hospital with 90 percent burns.

The Glasgow attack came after two Mercedes cars were abandoned in London's West End entertainment district in the early hours of last Friday, also packed with gas canisters and nails. They failed to explode.

Police have linked the attacks in London and Glasgow but the charges did not specify whether Abdulla was being called up on both.

Six other people are under arrest on suspicion of involvement in the attacks. Most of the suspects are thought to be either doctors or linked to the National Health Service.

The Times newspaper and other media said Abdulla and Ahmed had written an apparent suicide note explaining their motives. It indicated that they had planned to blow up the vehicle at the airport, the Times said.

Over the last few days, attention has focused on an Australian connection, after one doctor was arrested on Monday and several more were questioned toward the end of the week.

In Sydney on Friday, authorities said officers had raided hospitals in the Western Australian cities of Perth and Kalgoorlie and briefly quizzed four Indian doctors who had previously worked in the British health system.

Federal Police commissioner Mick Keelty said a fifth doctor, reportedly an Indian working in Sydney, was questioned in New South Wales. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Canada, Massachusetts warn vs China toothpaste

BOSTON—Health authorities in Canada and Massachusetts are warning consumers of the risk from China-made counterfeit toothpaste after more tainted products were found, deepening concern about the safety of Chinese goods. Preliminary tests conducted in Canada on counterfeit Colgate toothpaste indicate the fake products may contain even more harmful bacteria than authorities first suspected, Health Canada officials said on Friday. Canadian authorities urged consumers on June 29 to avoid Chinese toothpaste in the Canadian market because 21 products were found laced with harmful levels of diethylene glycol, an industrial solvent used in some antifreeze products. New York-based Colgate-Palmolive Co. has said the products are fakes and that it does not use, nor has ever used, diethylene glycol as an ingredient in its toothpaste anywhere in the world. *Reuters*

Blair wanted Diana to be envoy for Britain

LONDON—The forthcoming diaries of Tony Blair's former press chief contain details about how the former British prime minister wanted princess Diana to be an ambassador for Britain, the Daily Mirror said Saturday. Blair secretly met the princess before and after he became prime minister in 1997, the newspaper said, quoting a "well-placed source" who had seen parts of its former political editor Alastair Campbell's book "The Blair Years." But the meetings were so sensitive they had to be held away from the heart of British political life, Westminster, because as a member of the publicly apolitical royal family Diana could have been accused of politicking, it said. "Campbell's diaries tell how Blair and Diana always held their private meetings away from Westminster," the source was quoted as saying of the book, which is published on Monday. "It's pretty clear they were discussing some kind of new role for her. He thought she could do a a brilliant job as a kind of ambassador for his vision of a modernized Britain. "The princess was intrigued by the idea. She liked the image of the country Blair wanted to project and thought she could make a contribution. She was very excited about it." *AFP*

Millions demand release of hostages in Colombia

BOGOTA—Millions of Colombians brought the country to a near standstill in nationwide protests to demand that armed groups release thousands of hostages they are holding. Demonstrators wore white shirts and waved white handkerchiefs to show their unity in demanding an end to the conflict that has torn the South American nation apart for the past four decades. At midday on Thursday, a cacophony of car horns, church bells and whistles resonated in major cities as Colombians turned out en masse for the protest called after 11 hostages held by leftist rebels were killed last month. Demonstrators demanded "freedom without conditions now" for the more than 3,000 people held hostage by leftist guerrillas, right-wing paramilitary groups and criminals across the Andean nation. Families of hostages, non-governmental groups and the Roman Catholic Church organized the protest after the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, a Marxist guerrilla group known as FARC, said 11 provincial lawmakers it had held hostage were killed in a raid by government soldiers—though the government has said the incident never happened. *AFP*

SPECIAL DAY WEDDING
Malaysia couples pose for photograph after their wedding ceremony at the Buddhist Maha Vihara temple in Kuala Lumpur on July 7. Fifty couples tied the knot on a special date 07/07/07 which appears once in a hundred years. REUTERS

Car bombs, mortars kill 50 Iraqis, 6 US soldiers

BAGHDAD—A SERIES OF CAR bombs and mortar attacks killed 50 people in Iraq, police and local officials said on Saturday, while the US military announced six soldiers had been killed in the past two days.

The fresh violence follows a relatively quiet few days in Iraq, where tens of thousands of US and Iraqi troops are on the offensive against insurgents in a last-ditch attempt to halt the country's slide into all-out sectarian civil war.

One car bomb ripped through a crowded outdoor market in the northern town of Tuz Khurmato, killing 20 people and wounding 40, police said. They said the toll was expected to rise as many people were shopping at the time of the Saturday morning attack.

Police said it was unclear if it was a suicide car bomb attack or a parked car had exploded.

A suicide car bomber also killed 22 people and wounded 17 others when he drove his vehicle into a group of Shiite Kurds near Iraq's border with Iran on Friday evening.

Ibrahim al-Bajilam, head of the local council in Garghoush village, said the victims were returning from a funeral. The village is in Diyala province, where US and Iraqi forces last month launched an offensive against Sunni Islamist al-Qaida.

The military said roadside bombs killed four soldiers in Baghdad, three on Friday and one on Thursday. It said two Marines were killed in combat in Anbar province on Thursday.

US casualties have risen sharply in the past few months.

This has put US President George W. Bush under mounting pressure from opposition Democrats and increasingly from senior figures in his own Republican Party to show his war strategy is working after ordering 28,000 more troops to Iraq. *Reuters*

Israeli settlements go beyond boundaries

JERUSALEM—ISRAELI SETtlements in the occupied West Bank use only 12 percent of the land allocated to them, but one-third of the territory they do use lies outside their official jurisdictions, according to a new report released on Friday by Peace Now, an advocacy group.

According to the report, based on official data released by the Israeli government after a court order, 90 percent of the settlements sprawl beyond their official boundaries despite the large amount of unused land already allocated to them.

More than 10 percent of the land included within the official jurisdiction of the settlements is owned privately by Palestinians, as is 70 percent of the land the settlements control outside their official boundaries, said the report, whose findings were published on Friday in the Haaretz newspaper.

According to Dror Etkes, who prepared the report with Hagit Ofran of Peace Now, the official data show how the government has taken West Bank land beyond the needs of the settlements to prevent Palestinian construction there and to add a zone of separation between the settlers and the Palestinians.

But once an area is closed to Palestinians, settlers have seized adjacent Palestinian lands, often privately owned, without being stopped by the army, which is the legal sovereign in the occupied territories.

"There is a pattern of a failure to enforce the law on the settlers," Etkes asserted. "But the lack of enforcement isn't an accident. It became another tool to achieve the military goals of the occupation, which is to allocate the land and hold it."

The data, updated to the end of 2006, was provided officially by the Israeli government's Civil Administration, which governs civilian activities in the territories, in response to a lawsuit brought by Peace Now and the Movement for Freedom of Information in Israel. For years, until the court case, official maps of the settlements in the West Bank were not made public.

Shlomo Dror, spokesperson for Israel's military administration in the West Bank, said that many of the failings noted in the report had taken place years ago and had been corrected. "Today we have better enforcement, the ownership of land is checked and we pursue legal action when necessary," he said.

Etkes responded: "I'm not sure their enforcement is getting better, but their sense of humor is." *NYT*

Musharraf's plane fired upon as mosque standoff continues

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—A burst of gunfire erupted as President Pervez Musharraf's plane took off on Friday morning from an airfield in the garrison town of Rawalpindi, near the capital, as the government's siege of a militant mosque entered its fourth day.

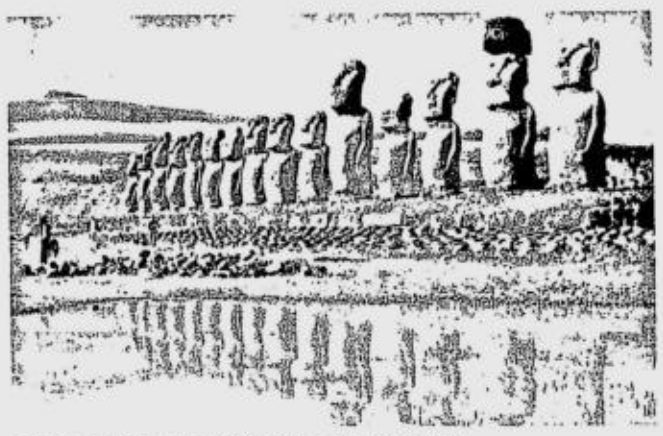
Security officials said they recovered two antiaircraft guns and one submachine gun with a telescopic sight from the rooftop of a house barely a mile from the airport where the shooting had apparently taken place.

It was not immediately clear if there was a link between the shooting and the siege at the Lal Masjid, or Red Mosque, complex in the heart of the capital, where the leader of the rebellion vowed to fight to the death.

Pakistani officials denied that Musharraf's plane had come under fire or that a rocket had been fired.

"At the moment, there does not appear to be any linkage between the incident and the president's flight to Turbat," Musharraf's destination in the southwestern province of Baluchistan, a government statement said. Musharraf arrived safely to inspect relief efforts for thousands of people affected by catastrophic floods across that region.

The siege of the mosque, where several hundred students and militants remain holed up, seemed to be entering a more tense period after the government rejected the conditions for surrender offered on Thursday evening by the leading cleric, Abdur Rashid Ghazi. *NYT*



CANDIDATE FOR WORLD WONDER
View of the Moais, the giant volcanic rock statues, at the Eastern Island, Chile, in this February 2007 photo. Eastern Island is among the leading contenders to be the new seven wonders of the world as a massive poll enters its final month with votes already cast by more than 50 million people, organizers say. AP

FAMOUS GUNMAN
Mikhail Kalashnikov, 87, holds his AK-47 Nr. 1, a prototype of the famous AK-47 rifle, during a ceremony to mark the 60th anniversary of the worldwide assault rifle's creation in the Russia's Armed Forces Central Museum in Moscow on July 6. AP

Gore kicks off worldwide Live Earth concerts

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—LIVE Earth got a traditional Aboriginal welcome in Australia and a high-tech virtual one in Japan, as the 24-hour global concert series to raise awareness about climate change kicked off yesterday.

Former US Vice President Al Gore made appearances at both—as a hologram in Tokyo and via live video link in Sydney—to urge rock fans to join the fight against global warming.

Madonna, Metallica, the Police and Kanye West are among the top billed of more than 150 acts due to appear in the series of nine concerts.

The biggest names will be at Live Earth concerts in London and New Jersey, with more modest lineups of mostly local and regional acts in Australia, Japan, China, South Africa, Brazil and Germany.

Aboriginal tribal leaders with white-painted bodies and shaking eucalyptus fronds were the first to take the stage in Sydney. To the sounds of a didgeridoo wind pipe, they sang and danced a traditional welcome to the crowd that grew quickly from a few hundred midmorning to several thousand by around lunchtime.

The group were immediately followed by a live video greeting from Gore, whose campaign to force global warming onto the international political agenda inspired the event.

Gore invited the crowd to take Live Earth's seven-point pledge to reduce their personal environmental impact and support policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"Thank you for coming today and thank you for being the very first to launch this movement to help solve the climate crisis," Gore said, standing before the Capital building in Washington. "Enjoy the show."

The Tokyo concert kicked off with a high-tech, laser- and light-drenched performance by virtual-reality act Genki Rockets.

Gore got into the spirit, appearing as a hologram to deliver another save-the-planet message.

"With Live Earth, we hope to connect people through the power of music and engage them with a simple universal message: SOS. Answer the call," Gore said.

Critics say Live Earth lacks achievable goals, and that bringing in jet-setting rock stars in fuel-guzzling airliners to plug in amplifier stacks and cranking up the sound may send mixed messages about energy conservation.

Organizers say the concerts will be as green as possible, by using biodiesel for power and recycled products where possible. Proceeds from ticket sales will go toward distributing power-efficient light bulbs and other measures to offset the shows' greenhouse gas emissions, they say. *AP*

THE SALINGGAWI Dance Troupe of host University of Santo Tomas puts on the usual display of pomp and pageantry in yesterday's UAAP opening ceremonies. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

UAAP BASKETBALL

Archers rip hapless Maroons; NU scores

GAMES TODAY (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs Adamson (srs)
4 p.m.—UST vs UE (srs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE ENERGY THEY WERE FORCED TO BOTtle up for a year didn't take long to come out and overwhelm their opponents.

The De La Salle University Green Archers marked their collegiate comeback with an 82-61 rout of the University of the Philippines Maroons at the start of the UAAP men's basketball tournament yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Wearing green jackets printed with the words, "We're back. We're one," the Archers wasted no time in establishing their dominance of the Maroons, with Cholo Villanueva getting to work early and winding up with a game-high 19 points for La Salle, which relied anew on its no-breathing-room defense to grab the victory.

"We played defense pretty well, pretty solid," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren, whose

ARCHERS/ A27

Opening rout has wrong coach worried over Game 2

GAME TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
6 p.m.—Alaska vs Talk 'N Text

FOR SOMEONE WHO WON THE OPENING game of the PBA Fiesta Cup championship series in overwhelming fashion, Tim Cone sounded like the coach on the wrong end of the rout.

"They'll make their adjustments," Cone said to explain his worry over how his Aces manhandled the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals, 113-86, Friday night. "They just got shocked and went to panic mode. They'll change that whole mind-set.

"I don't like winning these kinds of games," he added. "But I'll take anything at this point."

Cone and his Aces take the Araneta Coliseum floor at 6 p.m. tonight seeking a 2-0 lead that would move them closer to the franchise's first title in seven years.

And Cone knows that he would have to keep his players' feet on the ground and not take the Phone Pals for granted.

"The last time we won a [playoff] game in a blowout like this one was against San Miguel [in Game 2 of the semifinals], and they rebounded the next night and beat the hell out of us.

"We would like to avoid [a repeat of] that because I don't want to be in what I like to call a 'ping pong' series."

The Phone Pals will have a lot of adjusting to prevent the Aces from dominating them on both ends of the floor again.

Alaska had a 60-38 edge off the boards, a 27-2 advantage in second chance points, a 28-10 bubble in the assists department and an overwhelming edge in the hustle chart.

"It was a lot harder than it looked," said Cone, whom is seeking to win a 12th title in his career and creep closer the all-time mark of 15 held by his idol, Baby Dalupan. "I'm sure that they'll be a completely different team in Game 2."

Rosell Ellis had 22 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists, which represented the entire Talk 'N Text total, while Willie Miller had 22 and Mike Cortez 20 in a three-pronged battering ram the Phone Pals had no answer to.

And Mac Cardona was silenced all night, finishing with just 13 points after taking a 27.5-point playoff average into the series opener.

JJ Sullinger was also held to harmless numbers, with 13 of his 25 points coming into the final two periods when the game was already beyond doubt as Alaska took leads of as many as 22.

"I credit some of that to our defense," Cone added.

Alaska came into the series one key player short, with Jeffrey Cariaso out for at least another game because of a knee injury.

But the Aces showed no trace of being undermanned, with most everyone stepping up and playing with so much hunger compared to the Phone Pals, who gave up at the first sign of adversity.

"I think it's because they're [a] young [team]," Cone said. *Musong R. Castillo*

San Miguel-RP brings down Iran

MARK Lopez of the UP Maroons drives past La Salle defender Rejan Lee yesterday at the start of the UAAP basketball wars. La Salle won, 82-61. *Related story on A25.* AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

TAIPEI—CHALLENGED TO PLAY AS IF THIS was the Asia Fiba Championship in Japan, the San Miguel-Pilipinas national quintet responded by whipping Iran, 89-79, Saturday in the 29th William Jones Cup International basketball tournament here.

James Yap, a non-factor in RP's three earlier losses, redeemed himself by scattering a team high 18 points while Jimmy Alapag and Mark Caguioa reprised their stellar roles against defending champion United States in leading the Filipinos to their most impressive win so far.

"The boys really played well," said national coach Chot Reyes, who singled out not only Yap, but Erik Menk and Ranidel de Ocampo as well for contributing, in their own quiet way, to the country's third victory in six games.

"Coming in, I challenged the boys to have the mind-set that they're playing Iran in the Asia Fiba championship. I'm glad the boys responded," he added.

It was an inspiring win for the Filipinos, who remained upbeat despite taking a 74-70 decision from Jordan Friday.

Jordan and Iran are in RP's bracket in the Fiba-Asia along with defending champion China and all three nations are using the tournament for training and scouting the enemy to boost their respective causes in Japan starting late this month.

The Jordanians seemed to have the edge over their two main rivals as they sustained their unexpected run to the championship in this straight single round tournament by slipping past Lebanon, 72-68, to improve their leading record to 5-1.

The Americans took solo second at 4-2 after downing Kazakhstan, 92-78.

Lebanon fell to 3-3 along with RP and Iran while the Kazakhs stood at 1-5.

Cheered by about 200 Filipinos in the sparse gallery of 3,000 at the Hsinchuang gymnasium in Taipei County, Yap unloaded his first 11 points to help lift the Nationals to a 51-46 halftime lead.

Kelly Williams and JJ Helterbrand took over early in the second half before back-to-back triples by Yap and Alapag capped a 10-point explosion that pushed RP's lead to a whopping 14 points at 76-62.

When the Iranians, who boast 7-foot-1 center Hamid Ehadadi, closed in at 81-75, Gabe Norwood unloaded a 3 and then Caguioa added a layup and another triple to set the final count with still a minute and 20 seconds left.

Alapag and Caguioa finished with 14 points each while Williams added 12 that included a followup dunk that nearly brought the house down in the third quarter.

As usual Asi Taulava proved his worth by holding his ground against Ehadadi, who stood almost a head above him.

The Filipinos, who will play host Taiwan next at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow, played in front of PBA commissioner Noli Eala and injured teammates Danny Seigle and Tony dela Cruz, who arrived here early in the day.

The scores:

SAN MIGUEL-RP 89—Yap 18, Caguioa 14, Alapag 14, Williams 12, Helterbrand 9, Norwood 8, Taulava 5, Menk 4, Hontiveros 3, De Ocampo 2, Raymundo 0, Pennisi 0.

IRAN 79—S. Bahrami 22, A. Bahrami 16, Ehadadi 14, Amini 5, Tadjik 4, Davari 4, Afagh 2, Nabipoor 2.

Quarters: 19-24, 51-46, 68-62, 89-79

Hope Christian claims GVL trophy

HOPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL leaned on the troika of Carmela Garbin, Beverly Chan and Jamenea Ferrer to subdue University of Santo Tomas, 25-29, 25-17, 27-25, yesterday and rule the 3rd season of the Shakey's Girl's Volleyball League at the Ateneo Blue Eagle Gym in Quezon City.

Garbin, named the GVL's Most Valuable Player, combined with best blocker Chan and best setter Ferrer for 58 points, including 19 kills, as Hope Christian proved its victory over UST in the elimination round was no fluke.

"We're very happy that our preparations with coach Jerry (Yee) and assistant coach Camille (Tan) bore fruit," said the 14-year-old Garbin, a high school junior, in Filipino.

Hope Christian, which failed to reach the finals of last year's edition, thus regained the title it last won in 2005.

Best attacker Maruja Banaticala, Kim Fajardo and Alyssa Valdez combined for 50 points, including 25 kills, for UST, which was denied of the crown for the third straight year.

St. Francis of Assisi subdued defending champion University of the East, 25-18, 21-25, 26-24, 25-21, in their battle for third place in the event presented by Shakey's Pizza and supported by Toby's Sports, Mikasa and Asics. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Lonosa snaps RP wrestling slump

By June Navarro

JOAN LONOSA ERASED THE stigma of a winless opening-day campaign after hurdling Ayabaeya Tolkyn of Kazakhstan in the women's freestyle event of the 2007 Asian Juniors Wrestling Championships yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

A member of the national training pool, Lonosa pinned down the stunned Tolkyn for a 5-0 win that gave the Filipinos a breakthrough victory following three successive setbacks in the boys' Greco-Roman on Friday.

Lonosa, however, cut short her victory ride after Japan's Sakai Noriko sent the 18-year-old Bicolana crashing back to earth with a 3-0 triumph in the second round.

Still, Lonosa managed to sneak into the repechage for a shot at bronze in the 44-kilogram event against South Korea's Kim Hyo Jin, who also lost her bout to Noriko in the preliminary round via a 3-0 rout.

Joining Lonosa in the repechage was Noemi Tener, whom eventual finalist Pham Thi Hue of Vietnam shut down, 5-0, in their match. Tener will take on Khuhshguu Baterdene of Mongolia in the bronze-medal round of the 55-kg category, which was still being played at presstime.

"Entering the repechage is definitely a big deal for me," said Lonosa in Filipino. "I learned new fighting techniques after the first two rounds and I expect to learn more against Kim."

But while Lonosa and Tener were fortunate enough to barge into the repechage, luck, it seemed, deserted Maria Christina Pabio, who got swept off the mat by Kazakhstan's Eleonora Abutalipova, 5-0, in her initial salvo.

Meanwhile, Iran dominated the boys' Greco Roman event.

The Iranians hauled four gold and four silver medals on top of a bronze to emerge as the overall champion in the event for the second consecutive year.

The Iranians, who scored a total of 70 points, actually edged the Kazakhs, who had a 3-3-3 gold-silver-bronze collection for 67 points.

Palanca sets course record, wins US Kids

PALANCA: Boy wonder CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FILIPINO BOY WONDER PHILIPPE WINsett Palanca won the July 6 edition of the US Kids Golf Tour in scintillating fashion recently.

The 6-year-old Palanca birdied the par 5, 9th hole at Boulder Creek Golf Club in Boulder City, Nevada, en route to a course record even par 36.

Palanca, who hit the ceremonial drive in the 100 Presidents Invitational Golf Tournament hosted by the INQUIRER in May at Wack Wack West, thus matched the feat of Jiro "AR" Ramos, who was also 6 years old when he ruled his age group in the 4th US Kids World Golf in 2003.

His coach Sylvia Torres, who caddied for Palanca in the event, said the victory boosted his ward's chances in the Callaway Junior World Championship set July 17-19 in San Diego, California.

Int'l Pairs duo finishes eighth

THE AYALA GREENFIELDS PAIR OF AUGIE Palisoc Jr. and Boy De Fiesta failed to recover from a last-hole blow-up in the first day, settling for a share of eighth place in the International Pairs world final at the St. Andrews Bay Links in St, Andrews, Scotland recently.

After making a double-bogey on the par-3 last hole that pulled them from second to 11th in the first round with 37 points, Palisoc virtually played by himself the next day and just couldn't make things happen.

De Fiesta parred the first hole but it was the only contribution he made on Day 2 as he even had to leave his partner all by himself on the course when he could no longer endure the chilly conditions on the Torrance course of the Fairmont Links.

"We got drenched by the very cold rain on the course and it didn't help us any as we were already lagging behind," said Palisoc, who fought hard enough to account for the 35 of the 38 points RP made on the final day.

De Fiesta excused himself for three holes due to a severe headache and also to change his wet outfit. With his condition, he became a non-factor all the way for the RP team supported by Lufthansa and Callaway.

The Greenfields pair's 75 was just six points shy of the winning 81 points total logged by home squads England, Scotland and Ireland. England beat its neighbors in a sudden-death playoff to become the new world champions.

Felix Cortez, event licensee of International Pairs, still lauded the RP pair for finishing eighth out of the 28 teams in the field.

"The story could have been different if Boy adjusted well and quick enough to the conditions," he said.

Cortez and Gary Sales lifted the champion's trophy last year for the Philippines in the tourney which uses the best-ball with three-fourth handicap format.

Del Rosario joins Kawasaki

FILIPINO PROFESSIONAL JET SKI RIDER Paul del Rosario recently signed up as part of Kawasaki's growing family of champion riders in the country.

The deal was consummated between Del Rosario and Kawasaki's Institutional Sales chief Joe Mike del Rosario and Business Development head Arnel Juco during the contract signing held at the Kawasaki Philippines main office in Muntinlupa City.

Joe Mike bared getting Paul as its new endorser is Kawasaki's contribution to the country's sports development and quest for laurels in the international scene.

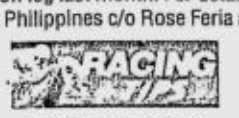
"This is our way of giving back the big support the Filipino people has accorded us through the years," said Joe Mike.

PAUL DEL Rosario (center) with Joe Mike del Rosario (left) and Arnel Juco.

SPORTSWATCH

Asian karting 2nd leg starts July 19

THE SECOND LEG OF THE 2007 ASIAN KARTING OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP dubbed as the 2007 Shell Helix-Casino Filipino Kart Grand Prix will be held July 19-22 at the Carmona Circuit Philippines. Over 60 karters from nine countries, including China and Japan, are expected to vie for nine titles at stake in the annual event. Macau, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand also have entries. Macau appears to be the biggest threat to the Philippines' bid for the overall title. Without any Filipino in their respective divisions, Macau bets Johnny Afonso and Mak Ka Lok bagged top honors in the Macau kickoff leg last month. For details, interested parties may call Carmona Circuit Philippines c/o Rose Feria at 8172241.



BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Royal Warrior (4), Santo Santito (3)
Race 2—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Hakuna Matata (9), Guardian (10), Sweet Talk (8), Jigsaw Star (7), Victory Ranger (5)
Race 3—(Tri)—Scarlet Skyterror (1), Terminator (5), Iron Head (2),
Race 4—(Ort/Tri)—Highway Builder (4), Green Gold (2), Decent Proposal (6), Swiss Mood (5)
Race 5—(Ort/Tri)—Lady Cugat (3), Princess Of Aachen (5), Traditional Dream (1)
Race 6—(Ort/Tri)—Cuadro De Alas (4), Nice's Incharge (6), Firehouse (3), Sandok (2)
Race 7—(Ort/Tri)—Sexy Eyes/Brown Bomber (6), Minsk City (2), Bravely Bold (1), Western City (5)
Race 8—(Super 6/Ort/Tri)—Legendary (8), Gil Speedbolt (4), Dynamic Duo (10), Best Kept Secret (1), Batang Westside (3), Golden Rice (9)
Race 9—(Tri)—Irene's Fantasy (1), Deputy Strovinsky (5), Regal Boom (4)
Race 10—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Kai Jason (3), Defiant (9), Eskapo (4), Golden Song (8), Run Like D'Wind (2)
Race 11—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Mary Jane Bomb (6), Secret Angel (5), Vinta's Bride (7), Jape (2), Record Holder (9)
Race 12—(Ort/Tri)—ES Twenty Six (3), Dream Cross (2), Flying Jojie (5), Cutting Edge (4)
Race 13—(Super 6/Ort/Tri)—Lovely Bid (9), Manila Magic (11), Storm Hall (6), Man Power (3), Grand Fiesta (8), Formidable Ella (5)

Condes seeks IBF title vs Rachman today

JAKARTA—WHETHER THE PHILIPPINES WILL have its first world champion after a long time will be known today when Florante Condes vies for the International Boxing Federation minimum weight title against champion Muhammad Rachman at the RCTI TV studio here.

A native of Romblon, the 27-year-old southpaw Condes has vowed to bring home the world title with a knockout victory over Rachman, who will be making his fourth title defense.

At yesterday's official weigh-in, Condes came in at a very trim 103.8 lbs, while Rachman checked in at 104.3 lbs.

"I am here to take the title away from your champion," said Condes. "Indonesia will be shocked. This is not going to the cards."

Wayne Hedgepetch of New Jersey will be the third man on the ring, while judges are Montol Suriyachand of Thailand, Salven Lagumbay of the Philippines and Muhammad Rois of Indonesia.

Supervising today's bout is IBF championship chair Lindsey Tucker.

Rachman has vowed to teach Condes a boxing lesson, and even predicted that this fight will end by knockout.

"We both have power in our hands. But I am more skillful. I prepared long and hard for him," said Rachman.

To prepare for Condes, Rachman isolated himself in Blitar City, Indonesia, although there had been reports he did not get the kind of quality sparring he needed for a fight of this magnitude.

Count this Williams in

Venus faces 'Bond girl' Bartoli in Wimbledon final

MARION Bartoli falls to her knees after ousting top seed Justine Henin in the tournament's biggest upset thus far. AP

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—IGNORE THE rankings. Ignore recent form. Remember this: You never can count a Williams out.

That's the lesson Venus Williams is providing at Wimbledon, precisely the way her younger sister Serena did at the Australian Open six months ago.

Out of the top 30, never so much as a semifinalist at any Grand Slam over the past two years, Venus Williams moved a victory away from her fourth title at the All England Club by outclassing No. 6 Ana Ivanovic of Serbia, 6-2, 6-4, in Friday's semifinals.

"Something about us—no matter what we're ranked, no matter where we are, no matter what the next person says—ultimately we just believe in ourselves," the elder Williams said, "and I think that's what makes the difference."

In her sixth Wimbledon final, the 27-year-old American will find a surprising opponent on the other side of the net Saturday.

Rankings aside, Marion Bartoli pulled off the tournament's biggest upset thus far when she came back from a set and a break down to stun No. 1 Justine Henin, 1-6, 7-5, 6-1.

Before this year, the lowest-ranked female finalist at the grass-court Grand Slam was Williams, who was at No. 16 when she won the 2005 championship.

This time, it's No. 31 Williams vs. No. 19 Bartoli.

"I have nothing to lose tomorrow," said Bartoli, who played 21 majors without ever making it past the third round until reaching the fourth at the French Open last month. "Venus has been the champion here already. I will try to figure out the way to play against her."

If Williams can credit her three consecutive lopsided wins over women ranked No. 2, No. 5 and No. 6 to an edge in experience and a game built for grass, Bartoli had a more unique reason for her success against Henin—Bond, James Bond.

Yes, that's right. While falling way behind against six-time Grand Slam title winner Henin, the Frenchwoman noticed actor Pierce Brosnan sitting in the stands. Bartoli professes to be a Bond and Brosnan fan.

"I can watch James Bond a hundred times in a row. It's not a problem for me," she said. "I love Pierce Brosnan's movies. I said to myself it's not possible that I can play so bad in front of him. I saw he was cheering for me so maybe I won a little bit for Pierce Brosnan. He's so beautiful."

She began to turn things around after getting broken to trail 4-3 in the second set. AP

No divine assistance for Phone Pals?

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

PBA CHAIR Ricky Vargas must be terribly disappointed.

Just before he left for the United States last Friday morning to attend a series of important meetings with American couriers, Ricky expressed in no uncertain terms that losing in the PBA Talk 'N Text Fiesta Cup is not an option.

"No excuse is acceptable for losing. There is no other goal but to be champions. It's going to be a long series but I hope we get an early headstart."

Ricky will miss the first four games of the series because he will be in New York, Boston and Washington DC to meet with the couriers.

* * *

Expressing his confidence in coach Derick Pumaren and the rest of the coaching staff "who have done their homework well," Ricky predicted that every game of the series will be a game of adjustments.

"All things being equal, *nasa sipag na lang ng mga* players *yan*."

I couldn't tell if he was serious, but what worries him, he said, is that former TNT coach Joel Banal in now on the other side.

Without Joel, there is no one to depend on for divine assistance, according to Ricky.

"*Malakas magdasal yang si* Joel *kaya malakas sa taas. E papano yan, hindi na naming siya kakampi ngayon*."

I strongly suspect that Ricky was joking, but whether or not his apprehensions are baseless, we will know for sure when the series is over.

But so far, Alaska took Game 1 of the best-of-seven series by a rout. (*See related story on A26*)

* * *

The task of forming a strong national cage team that would assure us of a Southeast Asian Games victory has been a primary source of worry to amateur basketball godfather Mikee Romero of Harbour Centre.

Recently, though, Air 21's Lito Alvarez offered to loan his players to the national team for the SEAG.

Mikee was so relieved and grateful. Until he realized that the SEAG schedule and that of the PBA 2007-2008 first conference would be in conflict.

Who knows, Air 21 might be willing to make the supreme sacrifice for the sake of flag and country?

* * *

En route to Tokushima, Japan, for the FIBA-Asia Men's Championship, the national team of Kuwait will make a side trip to the Philippines to play a series of tune-up games here.

Led by delegation head Muhammad Al Saif of the United Arab Emirates, who made the arrangements through his friend Buddy Encarnado of Sta. Lucia, the Kuwaitis will play against the RP team, the Realtors and a number of amateur teams from the PICAA.

They are expected to arrive in Manila a week before the FIBA-Asia championship.

* * *

Through media man Ronnie Nathanielsz who had worked for it, the PBA donated donated $2000 to what Ronnie calls Rudy Distrito's "restoration fund."

Incidentally, Ronnie was all-praise for James Yap who had been instrumental in winning the game versus Iran in the Jones Cup yesterday.

Ronnie said James proved he was worthy to be in the national team.

"*Magaling* and very gutsy, *matapang*."

Don't I know it. I was one of those who had questioned his non-inclusion, remember?

Roddick blows two points, big lead

RODDICK AFP

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—TWO points.

That's how close Andy Roddick was to getting another crack at Roger Federer at Wimbledon.

Two points.

Up two sets and a break against a kid making his Grand Slam quarterfinal debut, and later just-that-far from winning, the No. 3-seeded Roddick unraveled Friday, losing, 4-6, 4-6, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (3), 8-6, to No. 12 Richard Gasquet of France.

The usually gregarious Roddick discussed the defeat deliberately and in a monotone, as if he couldn't quite believe what happened.

"Well, it's another lost opportunity at Wimbledon," he said.

He lost to four-time defending champion Federer at the All England Club in the 2003 semifinals and the next two finals. Another showdown loomed because they were in the same half of the draw, and Federer beat 2003 French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero, 7-6 (2), 3-6, 6-1, 6-3, in an earlier quarterfinal Friday.

Instead of having the four top-seeded men in the Wimbledon semifinals for the first time since 1995, Gasquet will be the interloper facing No. 1 Federer on Saturday, while No. 2 Rafael Nadal meets No. 4 Novak Djokovic. AP

Bucks finally meet with Yi

YI REUTERS

LAS VEGAS—THE MILWAUKEE BUCKS MET with draft pick Yi Jianlian for the first time at the NBA's Summer League in Las Vegas.

Yi, Bucks general manager Larry Harris and Bucks coach Larry Krystkowiak met for about an hour at a hotel Thursday to get to know the 6-foot-11 power forward and begin lobbying him to sign with the team.

Yi scored 23 points and grabbed four rebounds in 28 minutes of China's 86-77 loss to the Memphis Grizzlies on Friday night.

"I felt better about today's game," Yi said through an interpreter.

Meanwhile, Bucks owner and Sen. Herb Kohl has written a letter to Yi.

"We'll see what happens," Kohl said. AP

Archers rip Maroons. . .

From page A25

wards spent a year cooling their heels after the school was slapped a suspension due to an eligibility scandal.

The Archers choked the Maroons in the first four minutes of action to grease a 14-0 run that Villanueva, PJ Walsham and James Mangahas help put together.

Mangahas proved to be a revelation with 14 points and seven rebounds before spraining his knee and leaving the game in the fourth period.

"I'm not surprised with his performance," said Pumaren of the 6-foot-3 sophomore forward. "He earned the starting spot."

Loaded with veterans this season, the National University Bulldogs stunned the Far Eastern Tamaraws in overtime, 73-70, in the second game.

"We wanted this game badly," said NU coach Manny Dandan. "We're much more confident and solid this season."

Everything went well for the Archers even hours before the game when the UAAP recognized the Filipino lineage of rookie Bader Malabes, thus making him eligible to suit up for the Archers.

The scores:

First Game

LA SALLE 82—Villanueva 19, Mangahas 14, Tang 12, Casio 12, Walsham 8, Maeirhofer 4, Co 4, Atkins 3, Ilad 2, Cua 2, Barua 2, Lee 0.

UP 61—Reyes 14, Co 12, Gamboa 8, Lopez 6, De Asis 6, Rivera 5, Serios 5, Sison 3, Agbayani 2, Marfori 0, Rosales 0, Hipolito 0, Epres 0.

Quarters: 23-11, 39-27, 58-42, 82-61

Second Game

NU 73—Lingao-Lingao 17, Asoro 17, Malagueño 13, Fernandez 10, Aguilar 4, Luy 3, Catamora 3, Salvado 2, Galapon 0, Ponferrada 0, Terso 0, Garcia 0.

FEU 70—Adolfo 21, Fernandez 1, Baracael 9, Barroca 7, Ramos 6, Sanga 6, Abaring 3, Gerilla 3, Reyes 2, Alisbo 0, Cervantes 0, Cawaling 0, Knuttel 0, Cabagnot 0.

Quarters: 17-9, 30-24, 49-39, 64-64 (reg), 73-70 (OT)

Filter Kings nip Ticel 5

EDRICK FERRER AND MARVIN SIOCO came through with defensive stops down the stretch Thursday as the Mighty Filter Kings scored a pulsating 115-112 win over Iloilo's Ticel Corporation at the Talisay City gym in Talisay, Negros Occidental.

With Mighty Filter Kings trailing, 112-111, with less than a minute left, Ferrer forced the driving Jimwell Torion to lose the ball at the baseline.

The 5-foot-11 Ferrer then scored in the next play to give the Mighty Filter Kings the lead for good, 113-112.

The hulking Sioco preserved Ferrer's heroics by blocking Leo Bat-og's shot in the dying seconds with Bochi Domangcas grabbing the loose ball.

Domangcas, who was immediately fouled, pegged the final tally by sinking his two gift shots.

Ferrer led Mighty Filter's attack with 26 points while Domangcas, Sioco and Geo Sia chipped in 17 points apiece. Terence Tang added 16 points.

Chinese bets RP Open top seeds

WORLD BADMINTON POWER CHINA sets out as the favorite in two of the five events to be disputed in the Bingo Bonanza Philippine Open Badminton Championships beginning July 18 at the Philsports Arena.

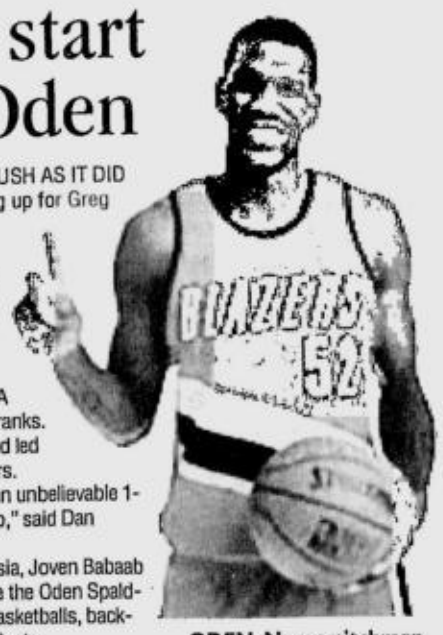
Despite slipping to No. 11 in the latest world ranking, the tandem of Zhao Ting Ting and Yang Wei gained the top seeding in women's doubles featuring world No. 4 Chien Yu Chin and Cheng Wen Hsing of Taiwan, No. 8 Kumiko Ogura and Reilo Shiota of Japan and No. 14 Endang Nursugianti and Rani Mundiasti of Indonesia.

World No. 2 men's singles player Chen Hong, meanwhile, is top seed in the centerpiece men's singles, which drew five of the world top 10 players, including Malaysian world No. 3 Lee Chong Wei, No. 6 Bao Chunlai, also of China, No. 8 Kenneth Jonassen of Denmark and reigning Olympic and Asian Games champion Taufik Hidayat of Indonesia, now at No. 9.

With the other top ranked players in women's singles, men's doubles and mixed doubles in the roster, world class badminton action is expected in the five-day, $120,000 event sponsored by Bingo Bonanza Corp. for the second straight year.

Malaysia, for one, has a powerhouse cast of 37 players seeing action, headed by world No. 2 men's doubles tandem of Koo Kiet Keat and Tan Boon Heong, Lee and Hafiz Hashim, the defending men's singles champion.

Endorsements start for No. 1 pick Oden



ODEN: Now a pitchman

THE ENDORSEMENTS MAY NOT HAVE COME IN A RUSH AS IT DID with LeBron James, but slowly, the products are lining up for Greg Oden.

This year's No. 1 pick overall by way of the Portland Trailblazers joined the ranks of Spalding global pitchmen along with Washington superstar Gilbert Arenas.

It can be recalled that James was inked to several multimillion deals the minute he was drafted by the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Oden was also a high school sensation but a new NBA rule prevented him from making a direct leap to the pro ranks. As a result, the 7-foot Oden joined the Ohio Buckeyes and led the squad to its first NCAA championship stint in 45 years.

"The combination of Greg and Gilbert give Spalding an unbelievable 1-2 punch to reinforce our worldwide basketball leadership," said Dan Touhey, Spalding vice president for marketing.

In the Philippines, the hub of the NBA in Southeast Asia, Joven Babaab of Proline Sports Center, which will exclusively distribute the Oden Spalding balls, is confident that Filipinos will embrace Oden basketballs, backboards and jerseys the way they patronized James' products.

Illam makes waves

QUIETLY, YET STEADILY, THE INTERNATIONAL Little League Association of Manila (Illam) has been making waves around the region. At the Southeast Asian Youth Baseball and Softball Tournament held in March in Perth, Australia, two of four Illam teams emerged champions in their divisions: the Major Boys (13 to 14 year olds) and the Senior Girls (15 to 18), besting teams from Singapore, Perth, Australia, Bangkok, Thailand, Jakarta, Indonesia and New Zealand. Illam also ruled the 2007 Little League Philippine Series in Tanauan, Batangas, last April.

Milo marathon listing's a go

IT'S ALL SYSTEM GO FOR THE JULY 22 STAGING of the 31st National Milo Marathon in Metro Manila. Registration is ongoing at the ground floor of the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg., 51 Annapolis St., San Juan. Entry fees are: P50 for the 3K kiddies run; P100 for the 5K individual entry; P50 for students with 50 or more entries; P100 for the 10K run; and P200 for the 42K run. All entries must be coupled with a 300-gram Milo label. Participants in the 5K and 10K run should be 13 years old and above while those joining the 42K qualifying run should be at least 18 years old.

Ramirez, Flores rule karate kids tourney

A PAIR OF SIX-YEAR-OLD karatekas from the Association for the Advancement of Karatedo (AAK) ruled the kata (form) and kumite (sparring) events to lead winners of the recent Milo Super Karate Kids at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

Kier Franklin Ramirez of AAK Batangas parried the challenge of Cesar Kennard, Zachary Mayo and Kim Nowell Alvar in kata. He went on to beat John Madrona of Team PASKA in the kumite finals to dominate the 6-7 years old boys division.

AAK Megamall's Nadine Flores duplicated Ramirez' feat as she ruled the 6-7 years old girls kata and kumite competitions, both at the expense of teammate Erika dela Cruz.

In the 10-11 years old boys kata and kumite divisions, Kazuhiro Nagata of JKF Shito Kai outclassed Alwin Batican of La Salle Greenhills.

Rounding up the winners' roster were Jordan Guevarra of AAK Megamall (8-9 years old boys kata), Mica Ramos of PASKA (8-9 girls kata), Regina Torres of AAK St. Paul College (10-11 girls kata), Laurence Silangil of AAK Megamall (8-9 boys kumite), Kimberly Madrona of PASKA (8-9 girls kumite), and Jamie Lim of AAK Megamall (10-11 girls kumite).

BASEBALL PHILIPPINES

Makati, Negros vie for title

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Ballpark*)
9 a.m.—Cebu vs Manila (for 3rd)
1 p.m.—Negros vs Makati (championship)

BOTH ARMED WITH TOP-NOTCH pitchers and boasting a battle-ready crew, Makati and Negros collide today for the inaugural title of the Baseball Philippines tournament at the Rizal Memorial Ballpark.

National team veteran Ernesto Binarao will start for the Negros Roosters as he did the past three games, hoping to come up with the same effort as his no-relief job Sunday that powered his team to a 6-4 victory over Manila in the crossover semifinals.

Makati Mariners team manager Jeffrey Santiago, on the other hand, didn't reveal his game plan. But by resting RP team pitcher Roel Batuto the past two games and using reserves Jonjon Robles and Christian Canlas, it is clear his strategy will be anchored on pitching as well.

League rules prevent Canlas and Batuto, both RP team mainstays, to play in the same game, but it isn't a luxury Makati is deprived of as Robles, the UAAP MVP awardee from the University of Santo Tomas, has done well in his stint on the mound thus far for the Mariners.

"We will prepare for them because they are strong offensively," said Santiago in Filipino right after upsetting title-favorite Cebu, 5-4, to make the finals despite being the last team to make the semis.

Canlas and Robles took turns in pitching against Cebu, which bumped into trouble when third-tier pitcher Jeung Sun Ha quickly gave up five runs in the first inning.

Darwin dela Calzada took over late in the inning but the damage proved to be irreparable despite Cebu scoring runs in the middle innings.

"Hopefully, we can ride on our momentum and our batters are ready to face a lefty like Binarao," added Santiago, who steered the UST Tigers to two titles.

Binarao will be the focal point of the Roosters' bid to become the first champion of this tournament. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Coach E goes to Parañaque

MARIA MONTESSORI SCHOOL IN Merville, Parañaque, joined the Coach E Basketball School roster as classes start this month in several Metro Manila areas. International Basketball Academy (IBA) president Xavy Nunag announced that the classes at Maria Montessori are set every Friday at 12-2 pm and will focus on opening modules for 11 years-old-and-below students in cooperation with the school founded by PBA champion coach Eric Altamirano. For details, call the Coach E hotline at 631-1195 or 0921-7562639 during office hours from Mondays to Fridays or log-on to iba_phil@yahoo.com and www.coach-e.com. For Xavier School classes, participants may call 723-0481. School curriculum includes Course Module 1 (Introductory phase of basketball skills), Course Module 2 (Transition to more advanced basketball skills) and Course Module Three (Transition to applied basketball in an actual game setting).

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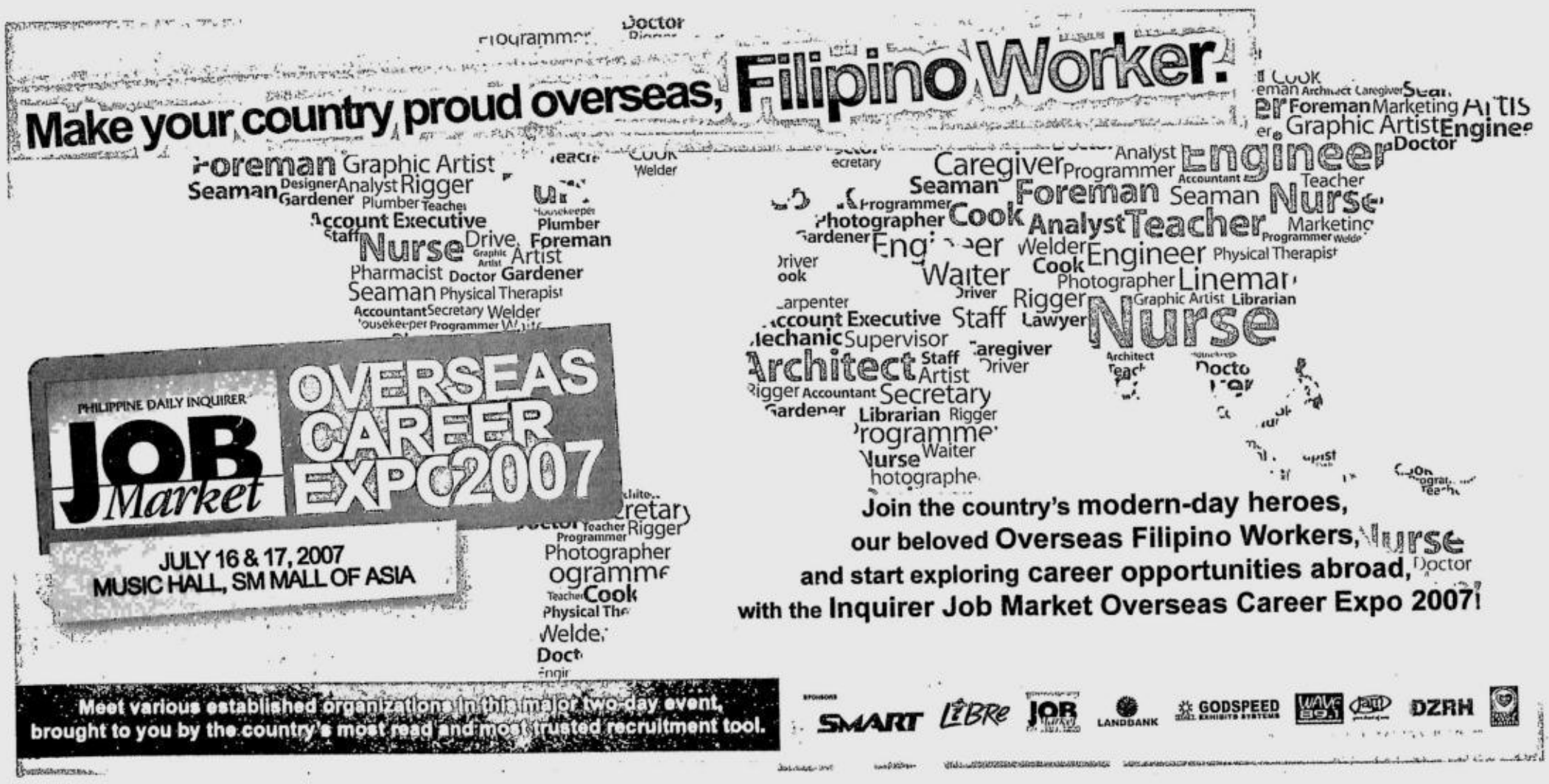

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Auf wiedersehen, Joachim

WB exec bids RP goodbye with fondness

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MOST FOREIGNERS AND many Filipinos cringe at just the thought of eating *balut* or duck embryo, let alone actually sinking their teeth into the half-formed chick.

But World Bank country director Joachim von Amsberg, who left the Philippines last week to take on his new post in Jakarta, Indonesia, developed a taste for the exotic native delicacy.

"They say that you don't really know what you're going to get when you eat *balut*, but my experience has been good. I really find it very tasty," von Amsberg told SundayBiz in an interview the day before he left for Jakarta.

The 43-year-old German national said that his pleasant encounter with the balut neatly sums up his stint in the Philippines, in the sense that the country may seem like a scary place to go to and do business in, but not when you get to know it.

And von Amsberg has gotten to know the country well in his three years in the Philippines.

Good governance

Thus, while others have been harping on their bad experiences with the country ridden with graft, corruption and political bickering, von Amsberg preferred to talk instead about the "islands of good governance" in the Philippines that inspire the belief that the Philippines is well on its way to a slow but sure economic growth.

He defined these "islands" as effective public institutions—from the smallest local government units to line departments—that provide valued services that the public pays them to do through fees and taxes.

These include the Department of Education, which is implementing the Third Elementary Education Project to help upgrade the quality of elementary education in 23 poor provinces; the fifth class municipality of Socorro in Surigao del Norte that is implementing its own community-based resources management project and the Manila Water Co., which is investing in the improvement of water quality and sewerage system in its concession area.

Change of strategy

Under von Amsberg's turn at the helm of the World Bank in the Philippines, the bank changed its country assistance strategy from supporting usual big-ticket infrastructure and policy support programs to channeling its assistance to support these "islands of good governance."

It did so with the thought that if the performance of even just a few vital public institutions and the delivery of key public services can be significantly improved, the public may demand similar good governance conduct from other public institutions as well.

Von Amsberg, who has a doctorate in Finance and Economic Policy from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, has always believed that by making the public institutions more accountable to the people, they will become more efficient, forced to do a better job and the people, in turn, will be encouraged to participate in public policy debates.

The Philippines is the only country where the World Bank has adopted its "islands of good governance" approach as a country assistance strategy, and it is making some headway because the bank has found strong partners in the government, academe and civil society who are willing to work with the bank toward the same goal of development for the Philippines.

Meaningful stay

He said his three years in the Philippines were meaningful because Filipinos—from the highest-ranking government officials to the ordinary farmer and fisherman—had been welcoming and ready to work with people, even foreigners like him.

"In other countries, I won't say which, I always felt like kind of an intruder, which was not the case here. People are always made to feel welcome," he said.

He related how during his first few months in the Philippines, he found himself the head juror of a Miss Barangay contest in San Fernando, La Union, which was in the middle of a fiesta cele-

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Learning made easy and fun for the young ones

By Jo Anne E. Padiernos and Kenneth M. del Rosario

HE WAS AN ACCIDENTAL entrepreneur.

Without any prior business experience and no formal entrepreneurial training, Kelvin Tham left his teaching post in a primary school and braved putting up his own business with the help of his family.

Kelvin, a former primary school teacher in Malaysia, took notice at how his students could not fully comprehend the lessons he was teaching in class. He felt that his students were merely memorizing the formulas in order to get high scores during examinations.

This prompted him to quit teaching in a traditional school and inspired him to think of a way to make learning much more fun and easy for the young ones, and at the same time allow him to earn a living for his family.

Kelvin then started designing a program and incorporating the use of the abacus which he believes can help young learners understand numbers better and gain a much concrete grasp of abstract arithmetic concepts.

Supplemental program

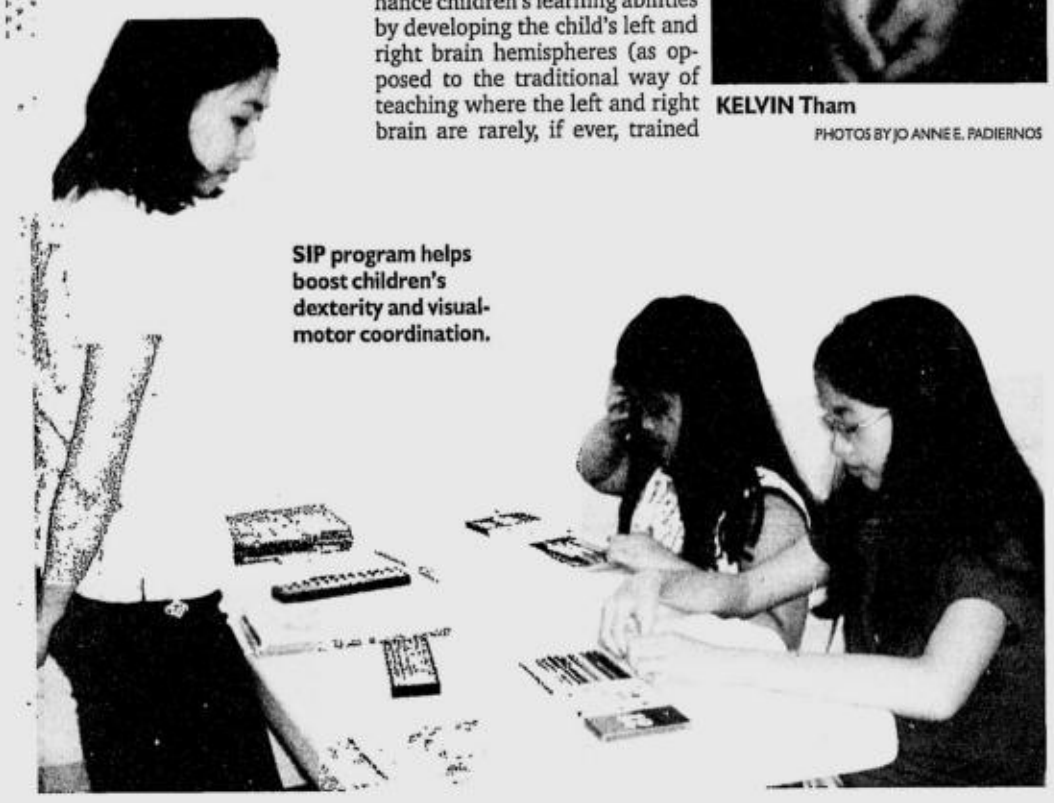
The result? A supplemental school program called Smart, Intellectual, Progressive (SIP). The innovation, pioneered in 1993, utilizes sensory touch through abacus manipulation using the fingers which facilitates better flow of information between the nerve cells and the brain, Kelvin said.

This activity results in boosting the child's dexterity and visual-motor coordination. SIP also boasts of pioneering the use of the "alpha music"—melodies that are meant to help students retain more information by "tuning out the wavelengths" in their brains while they work.

SIP utilizes the abacus to enhance children's learning abilities by developing the child's left and right brain hemispheres (as opposed to the traditional way of teaching where the left and right brain are rarely, if ever, trained and exercised simultaneously).

KELVIN Tham

PHOTOS BY JO ANNE E. PADIERNOS



SIP program helps boost children's dexterity and visual-motor coordination.

Growth of SIP

Kelvin first tested the program to his then 7-year-old daughter. He used an abacus with diamond-shaped beads which, according to the businessman, stimulate the brain once the fingers touch them.

"My daughter enjoyed the program very much and actually thought she was just playing a game," Kelvin told the INQUIRER, stressing that the program's "holistic approach" do not force students to learn but rather encourage them to do so.

His child's enthusiastic response gave him the confidence he needed to share this with other people—first to his other children, then to his community and nation and now to the Philippines.

It was from 1994 to 1997 that saw the growth of the SIP Program, which usually takes eight to 12 months. In 1995, Kelvin was invited to a Malaysian TV show, which allowed him to spread the word about the program to a much bigger audience.

A couple of years later in 1997, he put up the first SIP Academy in Indonesia. In 2005, the local deputy of education decided to include the SIP Program in the curriculum of all government primary schools. This resulted in a 17-percent improvement in the students' overall class performance across the country.

Formative stages

SIP Academy offers different programs for children aged five to 12, the best time to inculcate to children the values of the programs they teach as they are still in their formative stages, the entrepreneur said.

"In SIP, we don't focus much on the academic side. Instead, we teach children to have more confidence, higher self-esteem and longer memory retention," he continued.

Now an international learning center, Kelvin and his team is on a mission to help children overcome their fear of numbers and optimize their brain potential.

ABACUS helps young learners understand numbers better and gain concrete grasp of abstract arithmetic concept.

Fun learning

"It is fun to learn here in SIP," said 9-year-old Aaron Ang, a Grade 4 student in MGC New Life in Fort Bonifacio, who started taking SIP lessons last October.

Because he attends school regularly on schooldays, Aaron takes his SIP classes on Saturdays. Last summer vacation though, Aaron made wise use of his time by taking his advanced lessons three times a week—Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

In SIP, Aaron said he is very happy and feels much more encouraged to learn. "(Here in SIP), I don't have to raise my hand or ask permission if I want to speak," referring to the relaxed ambience of their classrooms. "My classmates and teachers are very nice and kind as well," he said.

Zach Villacruz, another student taking up advanced SIP lessons with Aaron, said his grades at his school in Jubilee Christian University in Quezon City (he is now Grade 2) improved a lot. And he credits this partly to SIP.

"My grades in Math, English and Chinese are a lot better. I also now find it easier to understand our lessons at school," he said.

Not meant to compete

Kelvin reiterated, though, that the things they teach in SIP are not meant to compete with the traditional way of learning at school. Instead, he considers this as a supplemental program, which he is positive will help children do better at their own respective schools. And since children only need to attend classes once a week in a one-and-a-half-hour class, it should pose no problem with the children's other recreational activities, he added.

Today, SIP has the largest network in Southeast Asia and is the fastest growing brain enhancement program.

"The program has come a long way indeed," Kelvin said, referring to the more than 200,000 students and 950 centers it now has in 12 different countries including centers in Thailand, Dubai, Sri Lanka, Bahrain, the US, UK, Oman, India and now the Philippines. Learning centers in Bangladesh and Australia are now also being constructed.

Ecija farmers...

From page B3

regular buyers like Dr. Raymond Signey comes twice a month to Sitio Boring.

Signey, a veterinarian, helps promote the briquettes by retailing these in Dagupan City.

KTPA's factory-cum store is located 170 km from Manila via the Maharlika Highway. It is 17 km from San Jose City.

On top of these commercial enterprises, the KTPA has become a learning center for agroforestry, integrated farming and making of charcoal and liquefied smoke.

The Mendioros said students and cooperatives from various parts of the country come and stay for a few days to learn techniques here.

KTPA members have a lot of experiences and insights to share because they have gathered as much since they began contract reforestation with the DENR in 1990, seedlings production in 1995, community-based forestry management agreement in 2001 and the two commercial ventures in 2005.

The most important lesson, said Trinidad, is going back to "*bayanihan* (cooperation)."

"*Ang samahan ay nagtulong-tulong* (We help out each other)," she said, adding: "We can't lift ourselves from poverty if we don't work together. We can't protect the environment if we don't work together."

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DATE	DAY	TIME From	TIME To	TOPIC	MCLE SUBJECT AREA	LECTURER	Units
17-Aug	Fri	4:00 PM	6:00 PM	Presenting Expert Testimony	Trial and Pre-Trial Skills	Justice Regalado Maambong	2
		7:00 PM	9:00 PM	Pleading Effectively before Appellate Courts	Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy	Atty. Rene Saguisag	2
18-Aug	Sat	8:00 AM	10:00 AM	Mining Act	MCLE Committee Prescribed	Atty. Roderick Sulazar II	2
		10:00 AM	12:00 PM	Corporate Mergers and Acquisitions	Substantive and Procedural Law	Atty. Ma. Romela Mosquada Bungcon	2
		1:00 PM	3:00 PM	International Commercial Arbitration	Alternative Dispute Resolution	Atty. Mario E. Valderama	2
		3:00 PM	5:00 PM	Civil, Criminal and Administrative Liabilities of Lawyers	Legal Ethics	Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr.	2
22-Aug	Wed	4:00 PM	6:00 PM	Ethical Problems and Pitfalls of Lawyers	Legal Ethics	Justice Hilarion Aquino (Ret.)	2
		7:00 PM	9:00 PM	eCommerce and Internet evidence in the courtroom	Substantive and Procedural Law	Atty. J.J. Disini	2
24-Aug	Fri	4:00 PM	6:00 PM	Understanding Marital Failure and other Legal Issues on Intimate Relations	MCLE Committee Prescribed	Atty. Katrina Legarda	2
		7:00 PM	9:00 PM	Ethical Issues in the Legal Profession	Legal Ethics	Justice Nicolas P. Lapeña, Jr. (Ret.)	2
25-Aug	Sat	9:00 AM	12:00 AM	Recent Developments in Taxation	Substantive and Procedural Law	Atty. Serafin U. Salvador, Jr.	3
		1:00 PM	4:00 PM	Handling Arbitration Cases as an Arbitrator or Counsel	Alternative Dispute Resolution	Atty. Custodio Parlade	2
		4:00 PM	6:00 PM	Anti-Money Laundering Act	MCLE Committee Prescribed	Atty. Vicente Aquino	2
29-Aug	Wed	4:00 PM	6:00 PM	International Law: Issues on Dual Citizenship	International Law	Justice Isagani Cruz (Ret.)	2
		7:00 PM	9:00 PM	SRC and Corporate Governance	Substantive and Procedural Law	Atty. Justina Fernandez-Callangan	2
31-Aug	Fri	4:00 PM	6:00 PM	Legal Writing Memorandum and Pleading Briefs	Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy	Justice Ruben T. Reyes	2
		7:00 PM	9:00 PM	Trial Skills and Techniques	Trial and Pre-Trial Skills	Atty. Marvic Leonen	2
						Total	30

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Auf Wiedersehen, Joachim

From page B1

bration at that time.

"I brought with me a speech about solid waste management. I realized soon enough that it was not the right speech," he says, "that was a very special experience."

So special in fact that he brought with him to Jakarta the plaque of appreciation that he got for seriously judging the contestants.

Souvenirs

The plaque is one of the two main souvenirs from his stay in the Philippines—the other being the family cat named "Smudge" rescued from the streets of Makati that his wife, Anjum Khan, and three daughters absolutely refused to leave the Philippines without.

Von Amsberg said the willingness of Filipinos to engage with others helps explain why the country has carved a niche in the services industry—call centers included—because Filipinos have a natural affinity for service and for relating to different cultures.

But at the same time, he described Filipinos as being very complex because of the overlay of cultures through the centuries, with traits borrowed from the early tribes to the Spanish and American colonizers.

"Just when you begin to understand the social structures, some new layer appears. I am always learning," von Amsberg said.

Traditional governance

He added that the overlay of structures was also evident in the government structure, in that the supposedly modern institutions, such as Congress and government agencies, are still run according to the traditional governance structures.

This is why these institutions work better in developed countries like the United Kingdom and the welfare states of Norway and Finland than in the Philippines where the feudal system of landlord and tenant still creeps into the bureaucracy.

"These informal power structures, traditional governance systems are indeed challenges to the Philippines," he said.

Eating and diving

The traditional power structure, however, is not the only facet of Philippine life that von Amsberg learned in three years.

He said he has also taken a liking to eating five times a day, to the point that his 10-year-old daughter now fondly calls him her "fat daddy."

Von Amsberg also learned how to dive in the Philippines, with Balicasag Island in Bohol a favorite destination, and developed a taste for durian, which turns off many people because of its unmistakable, pungent smell.

"You just have to open up your mind and taste buds to what the country has to offer," he said.

And von Amsberg said that the Philippines has a lot to offer and it is at a "special moment" in its history where it can catapult to the level of the East Asian dragons if it makes the right decisions, especially in fiscal reforms.

Window of opportunity

"There is now a window of opportunity for the country to establish itself as a very serious and successful country, but it is not automatic. Decisions have to be made," he said.

Von Amsberg said he would always be a fan of the Philippines and that he will look at how the Philippines progresses from his vantage point in Jakarta.

He sincerely hopes that one day, he will look back into history and say that the Philippines got its act together.

"All the wonderful ingredients are there—the people, the resources. The Philippines is ready," he said.

A Leader's Way

From page B4

As the Law of the Inner Circle says, "A leader's potential is determined by those closest to him or her."

Sadly, many people's talents languish on the job because they are disengaged. Likely, the greatest waste in business is human potential. Leaders pull out the potential inside of their people by inspiring and motivating. They are quick to offer opportunities for growth, be mentors, or equip their employees with resources.

3. Reinvent continuously.

Great leaders reinvent continuously on a personal level. They are always interested in ways to enhance their own knowledge and skills. The very best leaders are learners. They realize that if they stop learning, they will stop leading.

A leader sets the tone of the organization. If they cease growing personally, then the majority of those they lead will become stagnant as well.

Reinvention is critical to survival. The solutions to problems of the past are inadequate to address the demands of today. Leaders must have fresh, innovative thinking and new ideas to respond to the challenges the organization faces.

4. Value results and relationships.

When it comes to results and relationships, the best leaders take a both/and approach. A focus solely on results demoralizes the team, while an overemphasis on relationships undercuts the bottom line due to conflict avoidance and an absence of accountability.

The greatest leaders make friends and profits.

Leaders earn relational capital, and put it to work to gain results. As the Law of Connection states, "leaders touch a heart before they ask for a hand."

5. Embody values.

All genuine leadership is built on trust. Leaders build trust when they establish, articulate, model and enforce values. In short, they walk the talk.

If I say customers are important, my actions had better support that statement. If I choose to live as if customers are not important, people will have reason to question my trustworthiness.

And in the final analysis, if I am deemed untrustworthy by my people, I will not be trusted—or followed as a leader.

Review:

1. See the future.
2. Engage and develop others.
3. Reinvent continuously.
4. Value results and relationships.
5. Embody values.

Ken Blanchard's workshop, The Servant Leader, is offered by Salt & Light Ventures Inc. for the benefit of World Vision Foundation. Call Noelle Olazo, project manager, at 813-2703/32 or visit www.saltandlight.ph.

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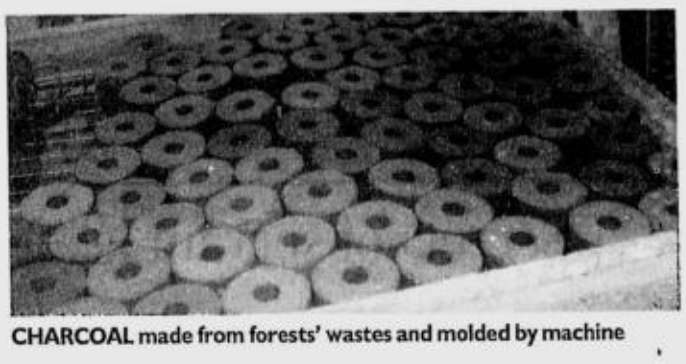

CHARCOAL made from forests' wastes and molded by machine

Nueva Ecija farmers help fight global warming

Text and Photos by Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CARRANGLAN, NUEVA ECIJA—Valentin and Trinidad Mendioro and 58 upland farmers here are their own kind of global warming busters.

They care for their corner of the world by nurturing a 115-hectare agro-forest, by making charcoal out of wastes there and by trapping the smoke that, in liquefied form, is used as soil conditioner.

The modest deeds of their group, the Kabulinawan Tree Planters Association, take more environmental significance when seen in the setting where they do their work, according to Cherica Ruby Claudio, a forester for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

They do these in the middle of logged over forests in the Caraballo Mountains and amid rampant traditional charcoal-making in Barangay Puncan, Claudio said.

The first was a result of unbridled commercial logging in post-World War II years. The second was an outcome, if not a simultaneous activity of the first, seeing farmers gather what was left of the forests, cutting down smaller trees and baking these into carbon sticks as cooking fuel.

"When we moved in here in 1970 because we had no land in San Jose City in Nueva Ecija, what were left of the forest were *alibangbang* and *binayuyo* trees," recalled Valentin, 66, chair of the KTPA.

Like the other settlers in Puncan, which now counts 860 households, they cleared the forests and cultivated vegetables on slopes during rainy months. From October to May, it was back to traditional charcoal-making.

The practice remains to this day. On Tuesday, the INQUIRER saw stacks of sacks of charcoal by the roadsides, waiting to be picked up by traders. From not too faraway hills, white smoke rose from several clay ovens nestled on upland plots.

In Sitio Boring, however, a different kind of charcoal is being produced at the factory of the KTPA. Called charcoal briquettes, these come in round shape and in compact form.

At least 25 pieces, which weigh a total of one kilogram, sell for only P15 a pack.

Cash from biomass

Trinidad, 65, the treasurer of the KTPA, said their members take turns making charcoal briquettes out of the bamboo varieties of *buho* and *bakawe*, the grass varieties of *cogon* and *hagonoy*, from wilted sunflowers and pruned tree branches from their agro-forest.

Other biomass like coconut husk and *ipa* (rice husks) that are thrown away by *buko* drink vendors and farmers are also used.

TRINIDAD Mendioro with a pack of briquettes

"*Bawal gumamit ng kahoy* (We prohibit the use of trees)," Trinidad said of the group's policy in making charcoal.

Began in May 2005, this project involves a six-step process.

The biomass is first charcoaled. It is in this initial step that the smoke is trapped and prevented to escape to the atmosphere. The moisture is gathered in bottles, sold as liquefied smoke.

The charcoaled materials are then ground into powder. These are mixed with cassava starch.

In the fourth step, the thick substance is poured into molders. These are sun-dried for three days.

In the final step, the briquettes are packed in reused cartons.

Foresters from the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna, and Japan International Forestry Promotional Center taught them the technology. The Japan Bank for International Cooperation helped KTPA buy the three machines, Claudio said.

Alternative cooking fuel

Trinidad said that amid the rising prices of liquefied petroleum gas, charcoal briquettes are a "cheaper, efficient and cleaner source of cooking fuel."

"Six pieces are all you need to cook rice, boil water or fry fish or meat," she said, adding one does not need to use gas to set this on fire. A few strips of scrap paper will do.

This new kind of charcoal produces less smoke, she said.

The briquettes are top-sellers in trade fairs organized by the DENR as well as by the departments of agriculture, agrarian reform, trade and industry, Claudio said.

KTPA members use the liquefied smoke as organic soil conditioner, insecticide and fruit bloomer for the trees and crops they grow in their farms and the seedlings they take care of in their common nursery, saving them money for what should have been spent buying chemical fertilizers.

It sells for P25 for every 350-gram bottle. A teaspoon mixed in a liter of water goes a long way even for flower gardens, Trinidad said.

But doing and sustaining these environment-friendly ways are a struggle, the Mendioro couple said.

For one, they could not cope with the demands of the market.

The fast food giant Jollibee, through its franchisee in San Jose City, wanted to be supplied with 400 kg of briquettes daily. The deal did not get off.

"We could only produce 300 kg a day and then, brownouts were regular here," Trinidad said.

Then, too, farmers could not regularly tend to their farms if they spend most of the time in the factory, Valentin said.

On their turns to work at the factory, four workers divide the P6 labor rent for every kilogram of briquettes. Another P6 goes to paying the electricity. They make a profit of P3 per kilogram. Profit goes back to the association, distributed as dividends to its members composed of 50 men and 10 women.

When there are many expenses to pay like tuition, the more hardup among the members prefer to have their labor rented in farms that pay P100 a day, Valentin said.

"There are many orders but we could not meet all of them," Trinidad said.

Because they have not established any outlet yet except during trade fairs,

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Sunday BIZ

Secrets of servant leadership

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

AFTER PRINCESS DIANA WAS killed in a tragic car accident, 2 ½ billion people tuned in to watch her televised funeral. Not only Great Britain, but the entire world, mourned her death. What accounted for the public's emotional attachment to Princess Di?

Certainly, royalty and beauty attributed to Princess Diana's popularity, but something else connected her to the hearts of people across the globe.

Looks and lineage may have landed her on magazine covers, but Princess Di had an endearing quality that gave her even greater appeal. Princess Diana was beloved because she was a servant leader.

For centuries, royal families epitomized self-serving leadership. Comfortably removed from the day-to-day troubles of those in their kingdom, they enjoyed opulent wealth and absolute power. Princess Diana broke the stereotype.

She leveraged her popularity to lend support for AIDS research, to care for those with leprosy, and to ban land mines. In fact, the force of Diana's compassion was so influential that Time Magazine named her one of the 100 Most Important People of the 20th Century.

Practices that help leaders serve others

In their valuable book, "The Secret," Ken Blanchard and Mark Miller shed light on the practices that enable leaders, like Princess Diana, to serve others.

In this edition of A Leaders Way, I'd like to pass on their ideas to you.

1. See the future.

Leaders have a compelling vision for the future stirring inside of them. The vision makes plain a leader's identity, direction and pattern of behavior.

To affect the future, a leader spreads values throughout an organization. These values are core beliefs that become the cornerstones of organizational culture. A wise leader publishes the values so that they can be repeated, recognized and rewarded.

A leader cannot delegate the responsibility to see the future. They may share the responsibility, but ultimately, it's the leader's job to make time today to ensure the direction of tomorrow.

2. Engage and develop others.

To create the future a leader envisions, he or she must have the right people, in the right roles, fully engaged to their work. Everything that you will accomplish as a leader ultimately hinges on the people you have around you.

A LEADER'S / B2

'Wellness intent' makes couple invest in vegan's diner

Text and Photos by Juan Escandor Jr.
Naga City

COUPLE PEPE AND NANCY OBIAS serve breakfast, snacks, lunch and dinner every day, except Sundays, but their fare consists of dishes without poultry, meat, fish, shellfish, dairy, synthetic ingredients and highly processed food products.

Pepe, who also whips the dishes, revealed they opened their place to sustain the benefits of eating only fresh organic fruits, vegetables, root crops and whole grains.

He said he was converted to vegetarianism in 1997 when he and Nancy were searching for ways to arrest emerging health problems in their young family.

"I was diagnosed with a high level of uric acid and gasping for breath while my arthritis was limiting my mobility. My 5-year-old son was diagnosed with symptoms of rheumatic heart. Our medical bills were mounting," Pepe described the circumstances the year he was forced to shift to a vegetarian diet.

HUSBAND and wife Pepe and Nancy Obias, owners of Green Earth Café.

Not long after, Pepe became an advocate of a strictly vegetable and organic food diet which, he said, corrected the imbalance in his body and restored the healthy heart of his son.

Pepe said the idea of operating a vegan's diner named "Green Earth Café" surfaced when they decided to change their lifestyle and adopt a completely vegetarian diet in their family.

This meant discarding the contemporary diet they were so used to since they were young, such as *adobo*, hot dogs, noodles and other instant food which correspond to the busy lifestyle of working parents.

At the start, Pepe said he produced his own "raw material" for the daily vegetarian diet which has to be in quantity to be affordable.

He said a lot of time was spent preparing the cuisine, including producing his own tofu and sauces for a variety of dishes.

To sustain their new lifestyle, the couple taught their friends some menus, prodded them to try the vegetarian diet and sold them organic food products.

The operation of the only vegetarian and organic restaurant followed.

Innovations

Pepe and Nancy said they made innovations on the different vegetarian cuisine they researched through the Internet and selected those that could be prepared here using locally grown and available ingredients.

"The vegetarian diet need not be bland," Nancy said. "It must be enjoyable because it has a natural taste, unlike the synthetic ones added to dishes."

She said, however, that their dishes do not pretend to be something else as these do not mimic the taste of meat, fish or dairy products.

The couple attest to serving dishes which passed the discriminating tastes of their friends and kin, from the very organic lemon grass tea to the more meticulously prepared bread jacket, which consists of vegetable and fruit cubes bathed in a milky garbanzos sauce and stuffed in a dough.

Far healthier

Nancy confessed they were introduced to the vegetarian diet through friends in the NGO community in Manila who discovered that the traditional diet of villagers were far healthier than that of city dwellers.

Her friends started experimenting on menus prepared by villagers and studied how the ingredients were selected based on what was available in the village.

They observed that the dishes consisted mainly of vegetables, fruits and whole grains which they claimed improved the villagers' immune system and made them less prone to illness and allergies.

The sharing of experiences became a small discussion group on wellness and diet until it developed into an advocacy center for healthful diet and wellness against the mass produced commercial foods and food products.

Advocacy center

With the creation of an advocacy center, they continued with their mission of introducing ways to a healthful diet by conducting small group orientation meetings and fora regarding natural and organic food diet.

Nancy said it took them a while to completely shift to a vegetable and organic diet from the "modern food diet" which harbors toxins due to chemicals introduced in the mass production of food.

But 10 years into their vegetarian diet, some friends came to calling them "cultists" in their successful shift from "modern food" to vegans' food.

Nancy said the change in diet must be total to achieve the benefits of restoring the natural immune system and healing of the body.

Nancy's mother

Gloria Florida, Nancy's septuagenarian mother, has no elaborate explanations how she embraced the vegetarian food espoused by Green Earth Café.

The fact that she walked across the street to the Green Earth Café was enough proof that she has been relieved of much of the heavy burden she had learned to endure for years since 1984.

Stricken with diabetes with complications like arthritis and hypertension, Gloria took medicines daily but still felt sickly. But after months of vegan's diet, she has regained her strength.

Excellent Address. El Jardin del Presidente 2. The follow-up to the well-received El Jardin del Presidente. Like its predecessor, it offers a winning formula that blends the past and the present to create an aura of classic elegance. Blue-tiled roof crown. Crescent-shaped balconies. Elegant wrought-iron gates. Enhancing these exterior touches are friendly features such as a landscaped arrival court with fountain. Swimming and wading pools. Children's playground. Lush walkways and perimeter fence. Inside is a cozy lobby. And there are only 12 residential units per floor, each one enfolding you in style and comfort. Underground parking is available. And you'll feel safe with 24-hour security.

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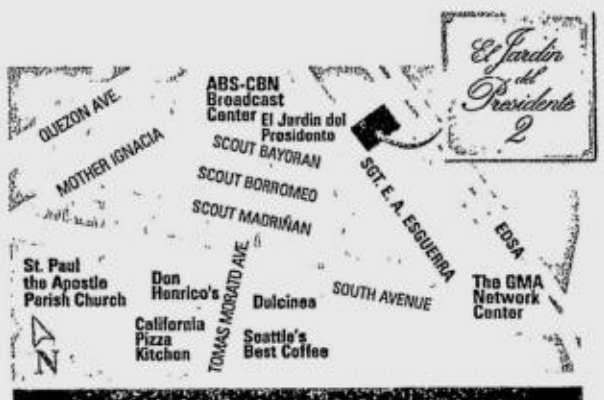

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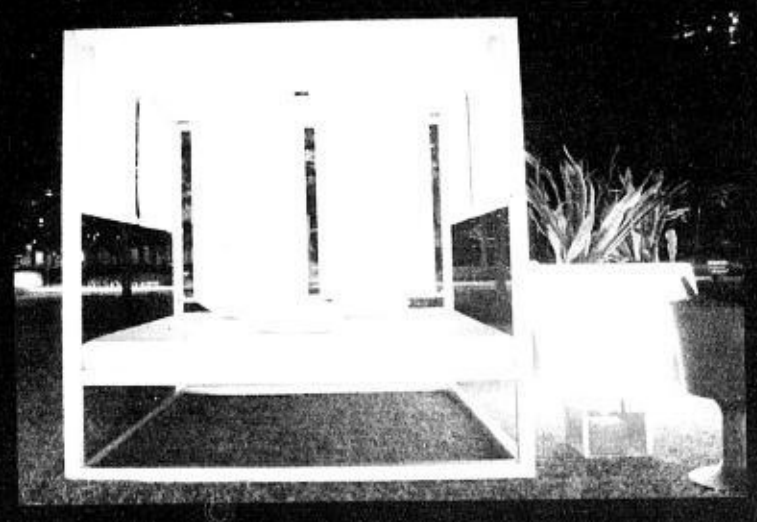
HOME at

MIND-BLOWING. The Mirotti Bubble is capable of producing a rich audiovisual display.

Bright lights, big sitting



CHEMISTRY: Outdoor daybed and lighted pot offer a picture of balance and harmony.

THE VISIONARY: Ong proves you can light your furniture and sit on it, too.

Illuminated furniture is the new trend

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

IT CAN TEASE THE SENSES, PLAY with emotions and set the mood. Lift the spirit, dance under hallucinogenic beams in an all-night revelry, or have a quiet dinner among muted bulbs. Indeed, nothing manipulates the human emotion in an instant the way lighting does. So let there be light.

A new trend illuminates tedious evening gatherings with interesting lighted furniture. Yes, these are furniture that literally light up the night scene. Just plug them into an electric outlet and they're good to go. Since the furniture come in white, changing colors is as simple as changing the colors of the bulbs.

"I first learned of this furniture during my trip to Europe last year. I thought they would be well-suited to the tropical lifestyle we have here in the Philippines," said the young GM of Living Innovations, Ferdinand Ong.

That Ong is bringing into the country yet another line of novelty articles should come as no surprise. Only a few years ago, his company introduced to the country the exclusive Italian furniture Minotti together with the high-end kitchen brand Bulthaup and restaurant-grade cooking technology Gaggenau.

With showrooms on the 2/F Makati Shangri-La Retail Arcade, Ayala Avenue, Makati, Living Innovations (tel. 830-2230, 812-2649) also carries home luxury brands such as Casamilano, Gallotti & Radice, Lapalma, Lolli e Memolli, Gandia Blasco and Artelano.

"Your furniture is not just another object in your house; it is an essential part of your personality, an artwork that breathes character into your private living space," Ong said.

More lights

This year, Living Innovations introduces Slide, an Italian company specializing in lighted furniture, and Gandia Blasco, outdoor furniture and accessories from Spain. Surprising, the products look good together.

At the recent Minotti Bubble event at The Fort, the first of its kind in the country conceptualized and designed by Momentum Phils., Ong showcased Gandia Blasco, traditionally used by beach resorts and hotels abroad as seaside furniture, along with the luminous brand Slide. The chemistry is nothing short of charming.

Made from polyethylene plastic, Slide explores form and color through rotational moldings, with light still the main player for the furniture's overall visual style. Designs are playful takes on basic forms—never too square or serious. With allusions to modern fantasy, for instance, Slide's Acquaglobo, floatable big balls, can transform a regular pool into a breathtaking vision. The pool then ceases to be just another body of water.

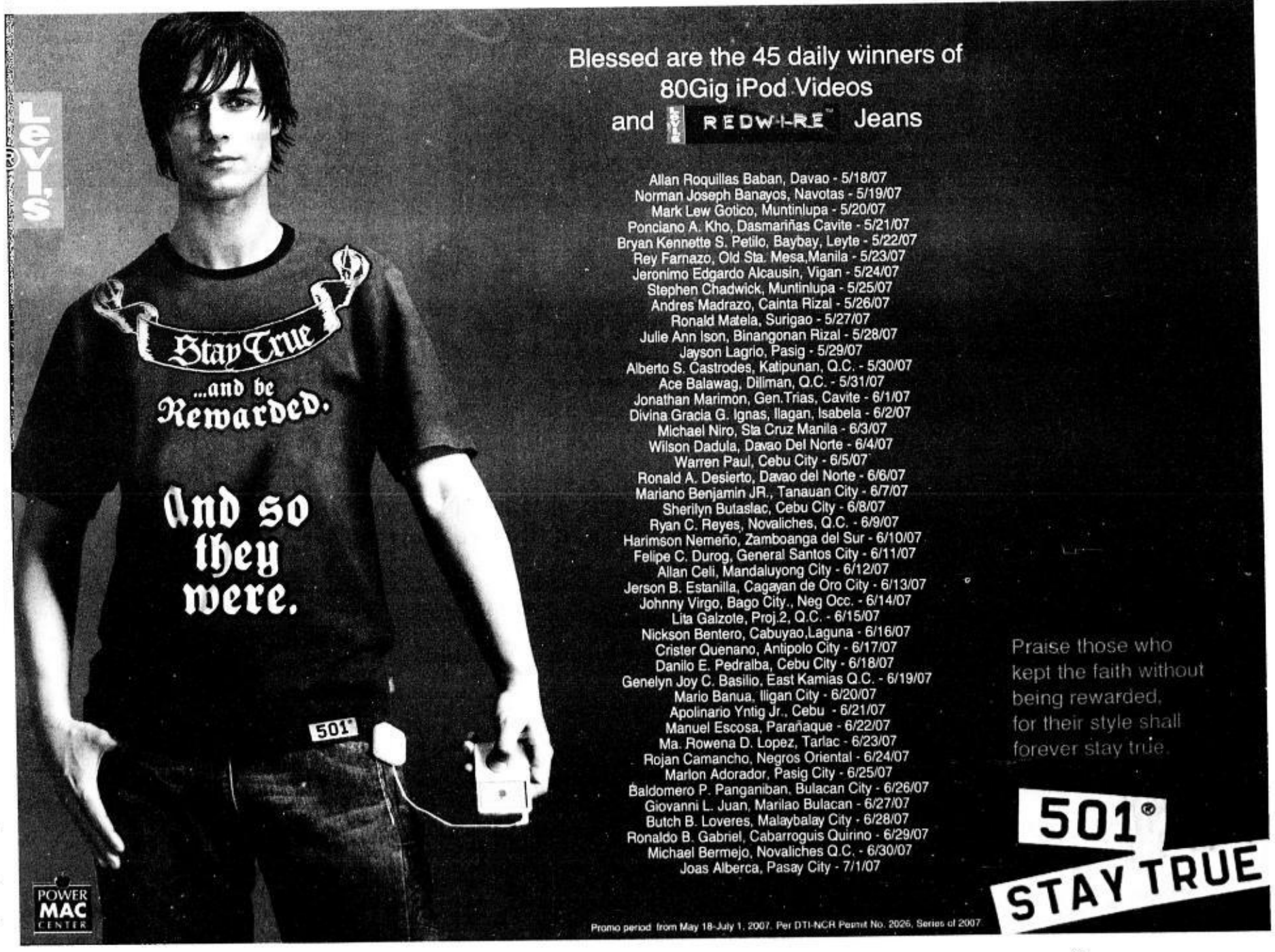
"Filipinos love the outdoors simply because it's too hot to stay indoors. I think Slide is the perfect outdoor companion—and indoor furniture, too, for that matter—for people who want to put a little more excitement into their garden affairs," Ong said.

Not quite sure if you need one? A whole line of Slide furniture is available for rent, Ong added. Pieces with softer lighting effects are also available.

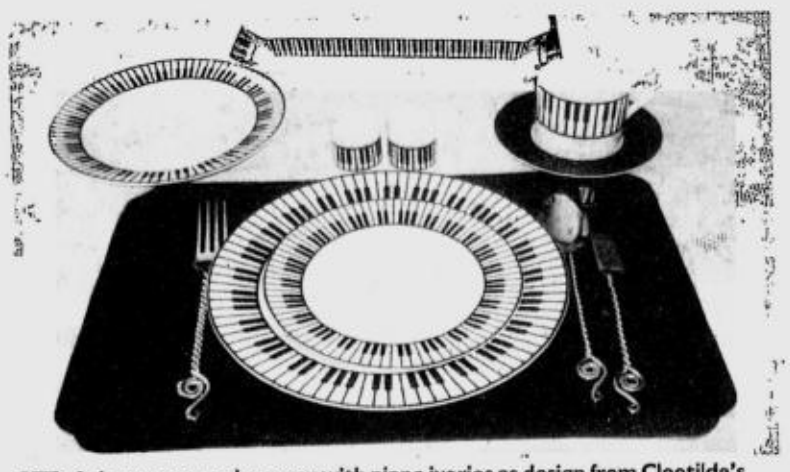
Al fresco living

Outdoor living and everything else pertaining to open skies is Gandia Blasco's field of expertise. Pergolas, day

BRIGHT LIGHTS/ C4



CLEOTILDE Balagot with her Baldwin concert grand

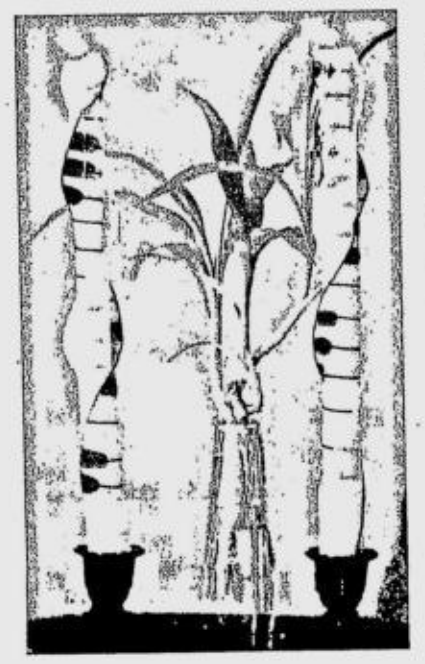


SET of plates, cups and saucers with piano ivories as design from Cleotilde's late husband Patrick, and spoons, forks and knives designed with a treble clef from son Jose and wife Amy

STEINWAY and Young Chang upright piano

Her tuneful menagerie

Music pedagogue Cleotilde Balagot keeps a 500-piece collection of instruments and musical odds and ends



CANDLE holders

SNOW globe with a concert grand inside

HARP picture frames

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Rudy Esperas

A TOP-OF-THE-LINE Steinway, a Baldwin concert grand, a Young Chang upright piano, a 1700 cello and a Maranao kulintang in one house? Why not if it's the home of Cleotilde Balagot?

A graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Music, major in piano and cello, Balagot has a musical collection that is part of her personal history. "Each item has its own story," she says.

For all the music housed within the walls of Balagot's home in San Lorenzo, Makati, the place is remarkably quiet. But then, shrines usually are.

Aside from the musical instruments, the home contains about 500 musical objects, which are displayed in the living, dining and kitchen areas, not to mention the music room.

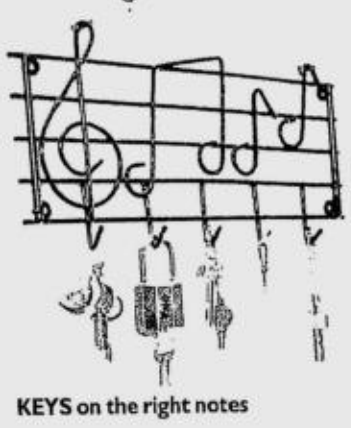
The collection has a connection to Balagot's life, skill and occupation. "The relationship between a pianist and cultural history is really intertwined. There was a period when no house was complete without a piano in it. The piano used to be the center of the house," she says.

Balagot bought the upright Steinway in 1971 in the United States for $6,000. "My late husband Patrick scolded me for it was more expensive than our car." The Balagots paid $65 every month for four years for the piano and $65 every month for three years for the car. "*Sira na ang kotse* but the piano is still here," she says.

The living room's showpiece is a seven-foot Baldwin concert grand that Balagot bought in 1983 in the US for $15,000. She plays her repertoire, centered on classics like Beethoven and Mozart, on this.

In the music room is a 1700 cello, which Balagot purchased in 1961 from her college professor, Martiniano Esguerra, for P2,000. "He told me that if ever I plan to discard it, he'd buy it back from me. He loves that cello so much that during the war, while his wife was carrying their child, he was tightly holding that cello."

Her former mentor's deep concern for the instrument has rubbed off on Balagot. She herself religiously cleans the cello and the pianos.



KEYS on the right notes

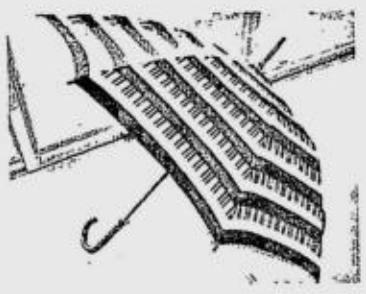
No grand design

Balagot says that her enthusiasm for her hobby "just seemed to happen. There was certainly no preconceived plan or grand design."

She remembers the thrill of seeing a pair of beige ceramic figurines—a boy and a girl playing the piano, which was given by her mother when she was a student at UP. "It was the first musical gift I got. I was fascinated with them because I found them unusual—the boy teasing the girl, who gets annoyed by his antics, while they're learning music."

Balagot's collection began to increase in number after the family migrated to the US in 1969. Her family and students at the Amadeus School of Music and Arts in California never failed to give her musical items on special occasions or from trips abroad.

CONCERT grand wall clock



"MUSICAL" umbrella

Her late husband Patrick gave her a set of plates, cups and saucers with piano ivories as design, which set he bought for more than $200. "I only use these when I have musician guests on special occasions," says Balagot.

To complete the dinnerware, her son Jose and his wife Amy bought her a set of spoons, forks and knives designed with a treble clef. Plus a wall clock adorned with photos of world-renowned musicians such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig Van Beethoven, Frederic Chopin and Johannes Brahms.

Her daughter, Ma. Paz, gifted her a set of ceramic nuns playing the guitar, horn, accordion, trombone and drums. Her grandchildren have also given gifts to add to her collection: Michelle gave her two cello player miniatures in metal; Raphael, music notebooks; and Gabrielle, stickers with Balagot's name and address and piano illustration, which can be used on letter envelopes.

School of music

Balagot was one of the three Filipino owners of the Amadeus School of Music and Arts. They put up the school primarily to hire Filipino musicians who had a hard time finding good jobs in the US.

When her husband, a chemist, died in 2004, she decided to close the 11-year-old school and return to the Philippines. "It was my sister and my daughter who convinced me to come home so they could take care of me."

Although the 500-piece collection has been her source of joy through the years, she says she will have no problem lending it to any museum interested in showcasing such objects.

Frustration

When Balagot's children chose to take different courses from hers, she got frustrated. "Not even my grandchildren are interested in playing musical instruments, " says Balagot, who used to perform with orchestras like the Manila Symphony, UP Symphony, Manila Philharmonic and Philippine Philharmonic. Jose took up Psychology while Ma. Paz finished Interior Design.

"This is why I just focus my attention and energy on my two gifted students—Martin Herrera, 8, and Angela Chikiamco, 7. They have such dedication to music that even when I reprimand them, they don't get discouraged."

Once a week, Balagot teaches music to streetchildren, aged 8-18, at Tuloy Foundation in Alabang, which was founded by Salesian priest, Fr. Rocky Evangelista. During her spare time, she does musical arrangements for piano and cello.

Some people may find her an obsessed musician but for the 74-year-old Balagot, the immense pleasure she derives from music makes her feel young.

TELEPHONE and pen holder designed with piano ivories

Sensible scents

Alice Blue Candle takes the familiar smells of breads and infuses them into ivory-colored candles

By Chary Mercado
Contributor

THE PREPONDERANCE OF HOME-fragrance products in the market today makes one wonder if there is any real science behind the promise of a smell that can calm you.

The key is finding that certain smell that unlocks the deepest parts of your brain where your basic instincts, fondest memories and strongest emotions lie.

So where should Filipinos go to find that scent that means something special from their past or evokes specific moods?

While most people would gravitate to the flowery essences like the lavender that Mom used to wear or the musky scent of sandalwood from Dad's aftershave, there is another unexplored source of comfort smells—the kitchen!

Enter Alice Blue Candle. Started in May of 2005, this innovative scented candle manufacturer has taken the familiar, much-loved smells of Banana Nut Bread, Berry Crumble, Vanilla Sugar and Butter Cream and infused them into pristine ivory-colored candles.

Tisha Namin-Gonzalez, founder and partner in the business, explained there are other unique reasons why these candles are so sought after by loyal customers as well as bazaar and mall patrons.

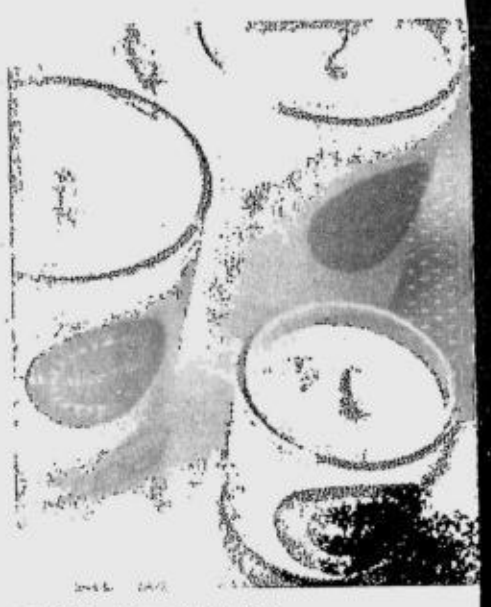
"We visualized a company that made products that are both environmentally sound and appealing to the senses," Namin-Gonzalez said. "Everyone seems pleased with the quality of our candles. We've had many word-of-mouth referrals."

Alice Blue candles are all made from imported soy wax, which is a renewable resource and is biodegradable. Only cotton and paper wicks (no wires or nylon) are used. Using soy candles is also a help to the homeowner since soot from soy candles, if any, is gray or white, not black. This eliminates the dark shadow of soot that often clings to light-colored walls when other candles are lit.

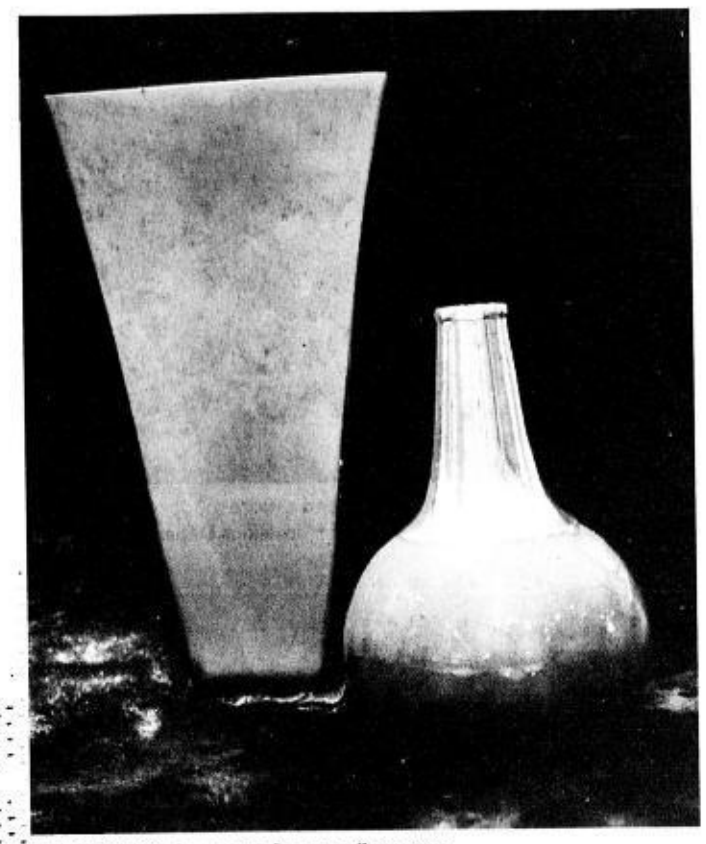
Alice Blue Candles are primarily sold on the ground floor of Glorietta 3 in Makati. They are also a mainstay in bazaars such as the monthly fair of the American Women's Club of the Philippines. The company delivers, depending on the quantity ordered and the location within the Metro Manila. It also ships to other areas of the Philippines and overseas.

The best-selling scents among women are White Tea and Ginger, Lemongrass, Bamboo, Peppermint and Lavender. For men, the popular scents have been Mediterranean Fig, Cranberry Spice, Sandalwood and Orange Clove. Cafe Mocha and Hot Chocolate from the Café Collection are popular as well. In fact, the Berry Crumble scented candle is lit in the pay lounges of major malls in Makati, Alabang and Quezon City.

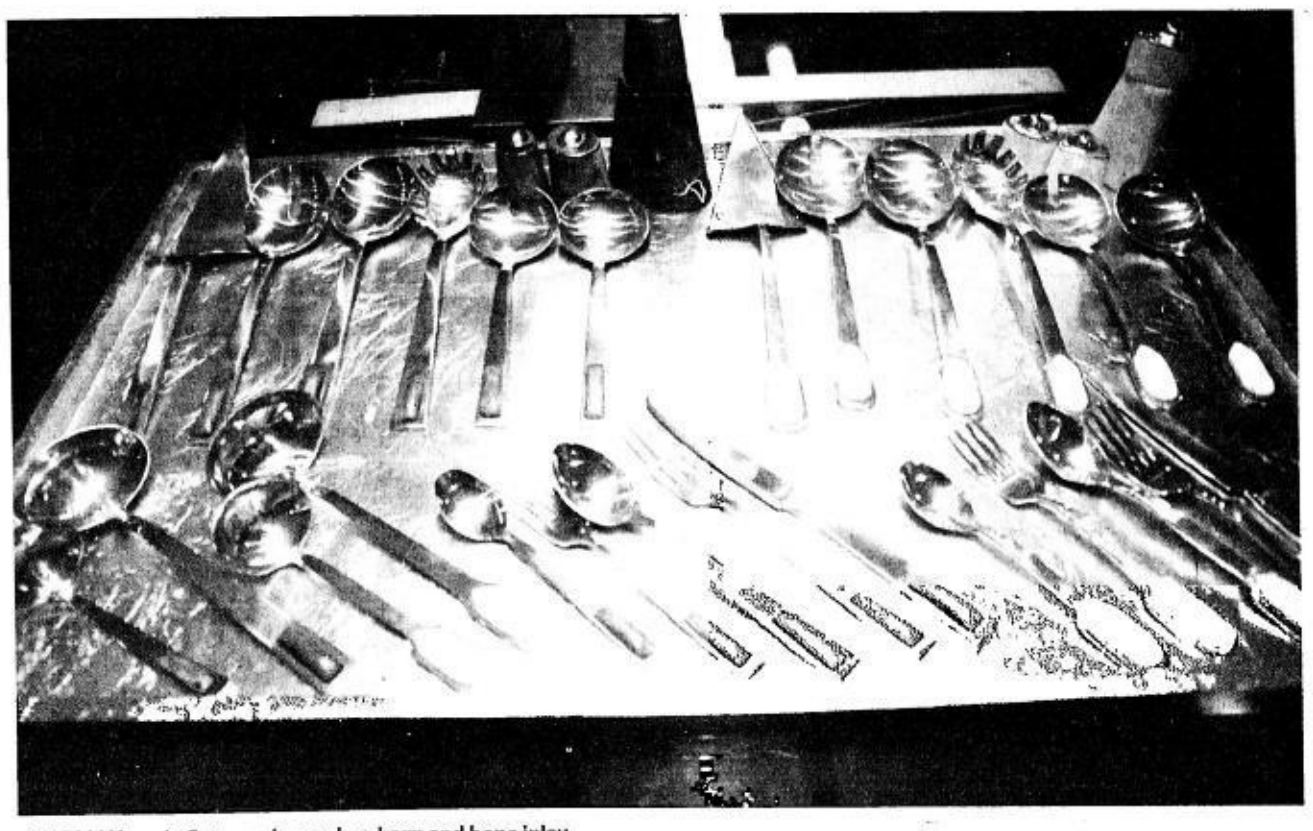
Visit www.alicebluecandle.com; e-mail alicebluecandle@yahoo.com or call 0916-3077466.



TWO Tumblers Votive Box



TURQUOISE glass vase; Aegean silver vase



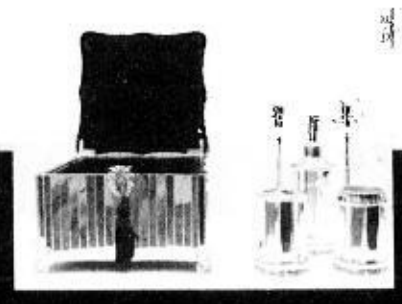
LOCALLY made flatware in carabao horn and bone inlay

Beyond the traditional

JADE ceramic vases

ALUMINUM hammered frame; silver pearl with base; silver cherry with base

NIGHT table pitcher; Natasha decanter; black and white 3-balls tassel; sleek decanter with aqua tumbler



Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

AS IT MARKS ITS SECOND YEAR IN the business, Beyond Bamboo, a home store on Jupiter Street in Makati, has started focusing on the works of a select group of foreign artists and designers.

On top of its wide range of furniture and accent pieces sourced both here and abroad, Beyond Bamboo is featuring the works of San Francisco-based designer Derek Chen via his handcrafted trays and vases.

"Derek's pieces are sold in Propeller in San Francisco and several other stores in Soho," says Beyond Bamboo owner and marketing manager Sheila Romero. "In the Philippines, his work is exclusive to us."

Made of such veneers as ebony, macassar and zebrano, the pieces assume a modern, streamlined feel through either bold or faux wood finishes laminated in acrylic. In essence, the items embody the home store's philosophy of providing its customers with traditional stuff with a modern twist.

Together with younger sister Trisha Bermudez, an interior designer, Romero has been scouring the globe in search of unique and tasteful finds ranging from flatware, lampshades, vases, wine decanters, candelabras, jewelry boxes, iPod cases and even faux fur throws.

The wine decanters were sourced from the United States and Poland, while the iPod cases were designed by seasoned American fashion designer Michael Kors. The store also carries silver accent pieces from Cambodia and leather items in the form of magazine racks, wine bags and laminated trays from Thailand.

But one of Romero's personal favorites is a set of flatware and kitchen utensils with antique horn and bone accents that's proudly Philippine-made.

Inexpensive but interesting

Indeed, as Beyond Bamboo's experience proves, China isn't the only source for reasonably priced home décor. The range of fairly inexpensive but interesting items from other countries is simply astounding, says Romero.

> Beyond Bamboo's experience proves that China isn't the only source for reasonably priced home décor

Apart from its unique offerings, Beyond Bamboo (www.beyondbamboo.com) is also the exclusive distributor in the country of Florence Broadhurst, an Australian wallpaper—and furniture fabric—brand for the high-end market.

The month of July has yet to reach the halfway mark, but the sisters are already in a holiday state of mind. As such, the store has introduced bolder, shinier accent pieces in silver, gold and various shades of blue.

Jewel-toned pieces associated with Christmas have yet to make a major appearance, and are now confined for the meantime to small gift items. Before the rush sets in, however, Romero promises to stock up on a new set of finds that more accurately captures the holiday spirit.

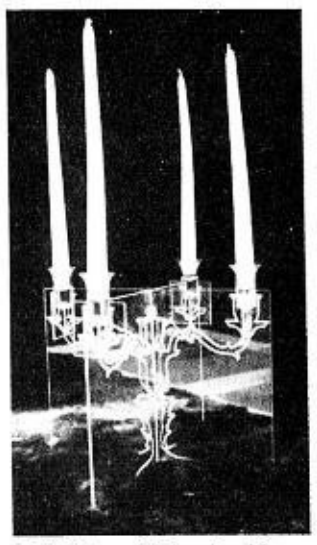
But one need not be in a Yuletide mood to fall in love with the store's collection of crystal and glass items from Rosenthal and Kate Spade. Its collection of various marine creatures in the form of hammered silver is enough to liven up any room or office space.

Like a good number of pieces on display, these items originated from nameless designers. If you prefer more famous ones, there are quite a number of recognizable names and their works to choose from.

Aside from Chen, Beyond Bamboo is also featuring pieces by such designers as Arthur Court, Patricia Urquiola, Pablo Pardo and John Russell.

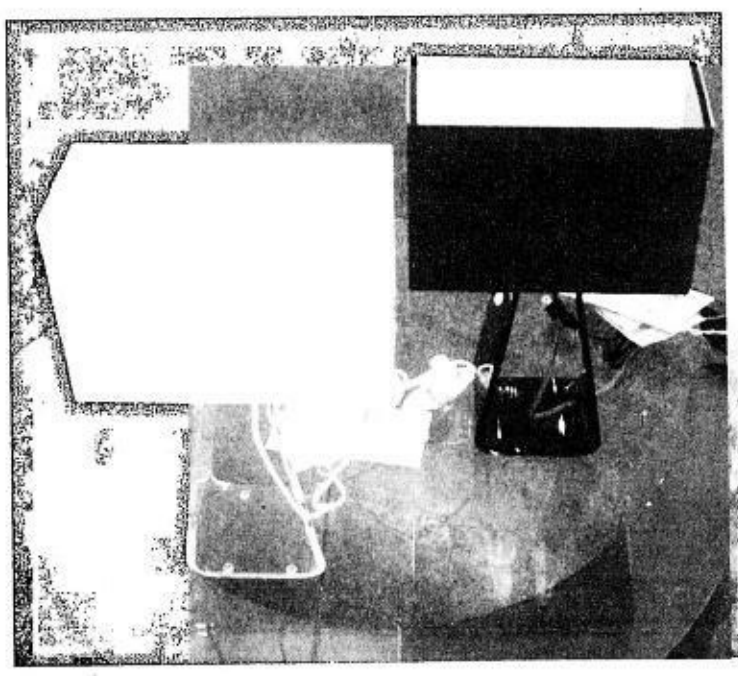
Their works—particularly Pardo's acrylic lampshades and Russell's "Ghost" of a candelabra—are sure to appeal to young, modern-day condo dwellers, whether they're newlyweds or swinging singles.

As the store's name implies, there's more to furniture and accent pieces beyond traditional materials such as, well, bamboo. In Beyond Bamboo's book, they can be made of anything and everything as long as they're tastefully designed and of consistent quality.

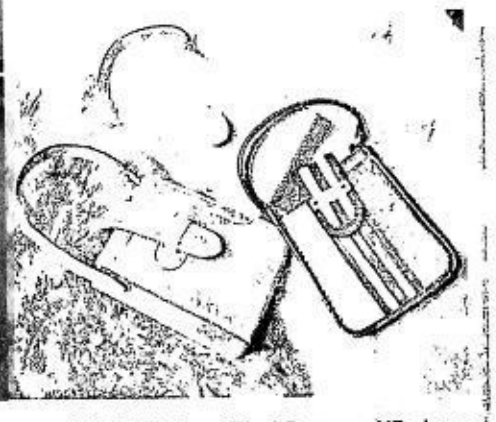


GHOST candelabra in white

ARTHUR Court's lion granite tray server



PABLO Pardo's tube lamps



MICHAEL Kors' BlackBerry and iPod cases

ABOVE: Glamour mirror jewelry box; Victoria Hagen silver candelabra; mirrored toothbrush holder, soap dispenser and tumbler

DEREK Chen's veneer trays

DEREK Chen's veneer vases

Bigger, brighter home haven

PHILIPPINE crafts and products on display at the newly renovated Homelines Department of RDS-Galleria

ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORE (RDS) unveils the new look of its Homelines Department at its flagship store in Robinsons Galleria.

A trip to the newly-renovated department shows a bigger floor area, now twice the size of its previous space. This gives customers more room to shop with greater ease and convenience. The new fixtures and brighter lighting also lend a more modern and contemporary appeal.

Customers will find everything they need for their home when they browse through the Dinnerware, Bed, Small Appliances, Plasticware, Kitchenware, Glassware, Towels, Curtains, Storage, Décor, Flowers, Bath, Philippine Crafts, Linen, Throw Pillows, Vases, and Candles sections.

RDS' new Homelines Department showcases the best in shopping comfort and convenience as well as quality products at the best prices. Shoppers can more easily navigate the aisles and spot the products of their choice, such as RDS exclusives Margaret Muir bed linen, bed and bath by Home Essentials and dinnerware by William James.

They will also find new and exciting brands like Rafe curtains, Kayumanggi Philippine crafts, Umbra frames, Homz and Tontarelli plastic wares, Regent hollowware and classic pieces from Oneida, among others.

NEW DISPLAY fixtures and brighter lighting lend a more modern and contemporary appeal to the newly refurbished Homelines Department of RDS-Galleria.

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Five-day Ikebana seminar

A FIVE-DAY SEMINAR-WORKSHOP on flower arrangement will be given by Serapion S. Metilla, 1-6 p.m., July 18-22, at Mett's Plant Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

The course will cover the different styles of Ikebana, as well as Western and free styles (Jiyuka).

The seminar shall also tackle sourcing of materials, flower-shop operation, woven art crafts accessories, buffet centerpieces, garland making, bridal bouquet, corsage and other wedding ensembles.

All materials will be provided for the hands on, such as pruning scissors, flower vases, floral foams, floral tapes, wires, foliage and flowers.

Registration is now going on at Flower Mart in Seedling Bank Early registrants who pay on or before July 10 will get a 10-percent discount.

Those who will take the course may qualify to become members of the Ikenobo Ikebana Society of Manila.

Call 9394593, 4352479 or 0917-8321352. E-mail mettsplants @yahoo.com.

Ikenobo professor to lead workshop on Ikebana

SENIOR IKEBANA professor Manabu Noda from Kyoto, Japan is scheduled to conduct a seminar-workshop on the signature styles of the Ikenobo School of Floral Art on Feb. 26-28, 2008 for the members of the Ikenobo Ikebana Society of Manila headed by Ikebana junior professor Serapion S. Metilla.

To be held at the Greenwich Club house in Corinthian Gardens, QC, the specialized styles include Shoka, Jiyuka and Rikka both classical and modern.

PROF. Manabu Noda demonstrates how to set up a Rikka arrangement.

Those who are interested to participate in the seminar-workshop are required to join the Ikenobo Society starting this month. Contact Mr. Metilla at 9394593, 0917-8321352 or e-mail mettsplants@iyahoo.com.

Bright lights...

From page C1

beds, *al fresco* or *merendero*, with duvet covers, bed sheets, sheets, fabrics and cushions—all in original designs and prints.

Gandia Blasco, with a design philosophy built around "rousing emotions," looks and feels fresh. Ong hopes to tap into the local hotel and resort industry, although private homes have taken interest as well.

The Spanish company meshes together an amalgam of anodized aluminum, movable polyethylene plastic materials and cloth. A modern piece calls for the marriage of metal and plastic in seamless, clean lines. The fabric, however, softens the stiff appearance and lends the furniture a casual, free-spirited design.

Ong's penchant for luxury brands is well worth the investment—and his select clientele knows this only too well. Not only do the pieces become objects of envy and desire, but the timeless designs also make them enduring possessions to last for generations.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

Red Ribbon

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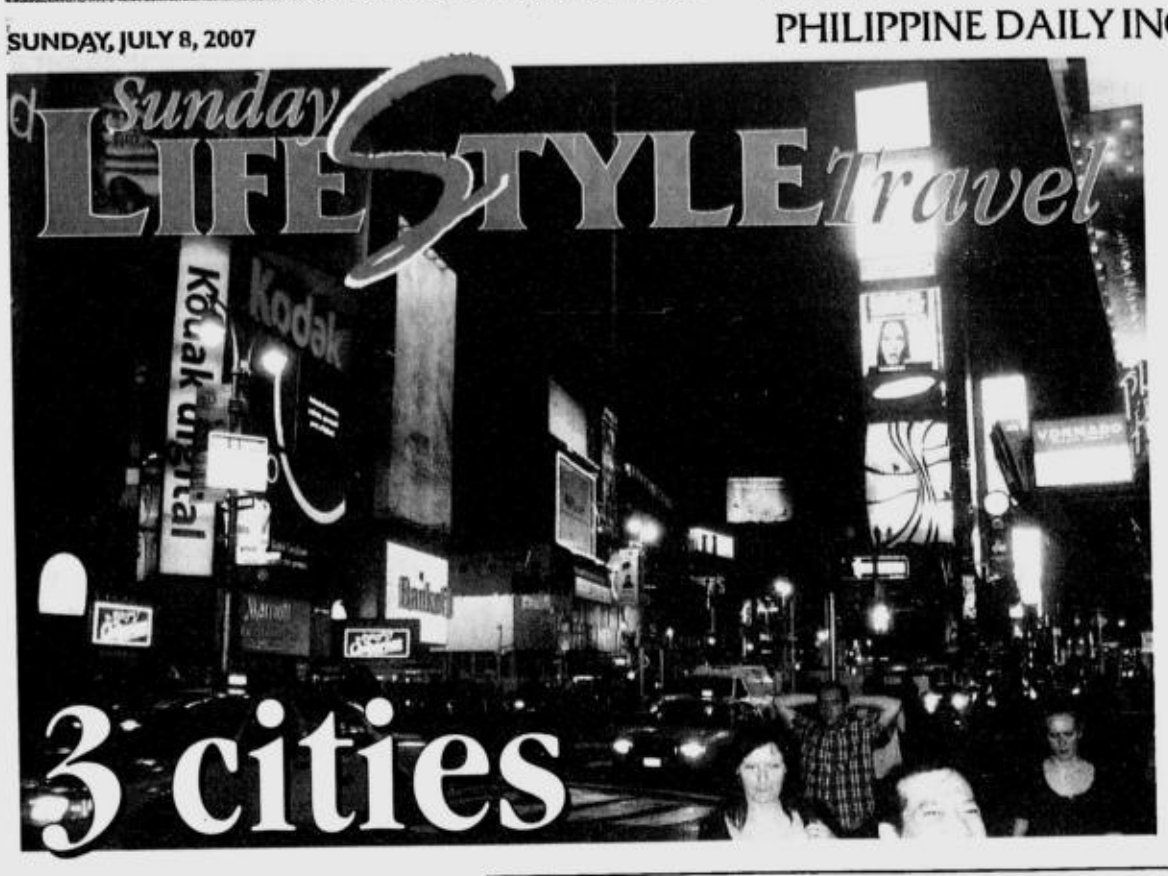

3 cities

By Antonio M. Claparols
Contributor

AS USUAL, THE CITY OF SAN Francisco was blessed with lovely weather.

My nephew Joey and I spent almost a week there, visiting, among other special places, St. Mary's Church near Chinatown.

It is the oldest church in California and continues to draw big numbers of the faithful. But it is now struggling to keep afloat because of lack of funds.

There must be a way to sustain this historic church that survived the great earthquake of 1906 and has since served as a center of unity and strength for its parishioners.

We went to St. Mary's to thank God for His blessings and to pray for the souls of our parents and brother.

San Francisco will always have a special place in our hearts. Riding the cable cars and walking in Union Square remind us of our parents, who first took us there in 1970.

The music of the city was playing for us as we met with childhood friends. How difficult it is to say goodbye.

New York

From San Francisco, we flew to New York, the greatest city in the world.

We spent another week there and caught two plays on Broadway—"The Wicked" and "Mamma Mia," both excellent musicals.

The Rockefeller Center and the top of the Empire State building are still wonderful places to visit, as are New York University at the heart of Greenwich Village, Soho and Bryant's Park near the Public Library.

We had an interesting time in New York because we experienced four seasons in a week.

The issue of climate change was in every broadsheet, magazine and tabloid. The G-8 was then meeting in Germany, and the United States was experiencing freak storms with hail, snow and rain—and drought at the same time.

The effects of Hurricanes "Katrina" and "Rita" were still fresh on our minds as we walked through that grand green spot called Central Park, 5th Avenue, 42nd Street and Times Square.

It's truly a city that never sleeps, with people and cars thronging the streets as night breaks into a new day.

Boston

And onward to Boston. The oldest city in the United States will always be my second home, next to Manila and Paris.

I studied and lived there in 1980-'83, and I was back to attend the 25th reunion of our Class of 1982. It was known as Arthur D. Little then, but today it's called the HULTS International Business School.

We stayed in Cambridge, where I lived during that time. It's a quaint city across the Charles River where Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are located.

We walked the freedom trail from Cambridge to Boston and spent time revisiting the past.

It was like I never left. Classmates from Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Colombia, Philippines and United States flew in to attend the reunion and address the new faculty and students of the Class of 2007.

It was a good year, 1982. It was our class that first put up an environmental management course as an elective subject—the first of its kind in any business school.

What a challenging step it was, especially during a time when the environment was just a word not to be taken seriously.

Today, with unmistakable signs of global warming and climate change manifesting everywhere on the planet, the environment is part of every business school's curriculum.

I was invited to address the graduating class, and I felt honored to speak about our 25 years since graduation and how the environment and economics traversed parallel lines.

But as we spoke, the waters of Lake Superior set new records, receding by more than 20 feet. The Great Lakes were running dry!

Saying goodbye to Boston was harder than the rest. How does one bid farewell to a city one has lived in and continues to love?

Addressing the problem

Back in New York, we arrived at the JFK Airport to see the traffic of airplanes on the

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PUPPET dance at the opening of the 20th Korea World Travel Fair

AMBASSADOR Susan Castrence (center) hosts the 109th Philippine Independence Day celebration.

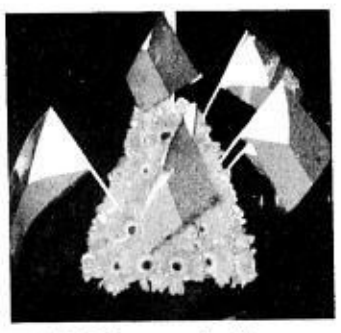
Full blast in Korea

The Department of Tourism is going all out in Korea with a campaign called '7,107 Philippines—More Than You Can Imagine'

PHILIPPINE booth with distinctly Mindanao motif

Text and photos by Constantino C. Tejero

TOURISM Secretary Joseph Durano (fourth from right) with his counterparts from other countries at the Kotfa tape-cutting ceremony



TRICOLOR among the flowers

WE FIRST NOticed children with nametags, some of them even toddlers, frolicking on the airport lobby three or four years ago. Then there were teenagers in groups chattering in malls. And soon there were hordes of them in the streets.

We were wondering where they came from, and why, as they looked not quite Chinese, certainly not Japanese. Then we realized it was what we belatedly tagged the "Korean invasion." (And we're not talking of those extreme Korean movies and *teleserye*, either.)

The Department of Tourism (DOT) has described it as a "fast-growing captive market, now consistently the Philippines' biggest source of foreign tourists."

With last year's record arrivals of nearly 600,000 from Korea, why, that number could form a little Korean city right in Metro Manila.

And so the DOT is in full-blast operation in Korea with a campaign called "7,107 Philippines—More Than You Can Imagine." (The number, of course, refers to our islands.)

This, says Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano, is "specifically targeted at our four primary market segments in the peninsula—holiday-seekers, students, honeymooners and special-interest groups—thus ensuring Korean arrivals in the Philippines all year round."

The "7,107" marketing program was launched at the 20th Korea World Travel Fair (Kotfa) on June 7-10 in Seoul, timed for the month starting the summer holidays in Korea. This time, it focused on Davao City in time for Kadayawan, the thanksgiving festival of fruits, foods and flowers on the second week of August.

The Philippine delegation comprised 30 representatives from hotels and resorts, tour operators and airlines; four media persons from the top two Philippine newspapers and the giant TV network ABS-CBN; the government contingent of eight, including Durano and Bataan Rep. Antonino Roman; and 18 entertainers, including children.

Cultural performances

We were well attended to the moment we arrived at Incheon International Airport, about an hour's drive from central Seoul, where we were billeted at Lotte World Hotel Jamsil.

On hand were DOT Team Korea's supervising market specialists Doris Aparejado and James Sy. Wherever we went, we were closely trailed by Shan Park, a Korean student at University of the Philippines Diliman who volunteered with the DOT office in Seoul to act as our guide during the duration of our stay.

The following morning, we came early for the Kotfa opening ceremony at the Convention and Exhibition Center (Coex), touted as Korea's main cultural and events venue. We were too early, in fact, that the cavernous place looked virtually uninhabited.

While waiting for the tape-cutting ceremony, the guests were entertained by cultural performances at the entrance near the escalator. They were visibly shaken by an acrobatic Chinese dance involving umbrellas and a Mindanao *malong* dance involving, well, *malong*.

As soon as the exhibition opened, more cultural performances unfolded onstage and in booths. We were particularly riveted by the contingent from Guam as some of their music and lyrics, dance steps, and even costumes and faces looked and sounded somewhat familiar—we thought they were Pinoys stranded somewhere in the Pacific.

Strategically located on the front row and near the entrance, the Philippine booth was the third biggest in floor area, after China's and Korea's. It looked bright and airy and filled with colors. The décor had a distinctly Mindanao motif, we even espied the sacred weave of the T'boli being used as draping.

Maricon Basco-Ebron, head of Team Korea and our tourism attaché in Seoul, explained that the Philippine booth had a Kadayawan feel since the destination focus was Southern Philippines, and in view of direct flights from Incheon to Davao.

Fellowship dinner

In one hall of Coex was held a welcome luncheon in which Seoul Mayor Oh Se Hoon was in attendance. Korean performers showed guests their astounding way with drums.

Durano was called on stage to make a remark, and he introduced the international delegates to our peculiar greeting *"Mabuhay!"*

Most at our table couldn't have enough of the raspberry wine in the numerous toasts, and they found the cream of cauliflower soup with clam and herb crouton deeply satisfying.

In the evening, Durano hosted a fellowship dinner for tour wholesalers and the media in the Peony Room of Westin Chosun Hotel. Also attending were Roman, Philippine Ambassador to Korea Susan Castrence, and Korea Tourism Association chair Joong-Mok Shin.

Durano presented "Beyond the Usual," a five-minute video highlighting "the uniqueness of Philippine destinations, festivals and parties, shopping and bargains, lifestyle and honeymoons, health and wellness, history and traditions, and nature, culture and adventure, and many other activities that set our country apart from the rest of Asia."

Someone at our table couldn't contain herself from enthusing over the salad of smoked duck breast with caramelized pear, while dismissing as rather bland the velouté of celery root with chives. Another totally ignored the mixed garden greens in creamy French dressing, as he had had more than enough of leaves from days of eating *bulgogi*.

Anniversary celebration

The following evening, Castrence hosted a reception for the 109th anniversary of Philippine independence, celebrated four days in advance in the Regency Ballroom of Grand Hyatt Hotel. Guest of honor was Minister Myung-Jae Park of the Ministry of Government and Home Affairs.

After the entrance of colors and the ceremonial toast, the Asean diplomatic corps and guests cordially congregated, ate and chattered, sang and posed for photos, one or two even tinkled the piano.

The chicken-pork *adobo* was the first to be wiped out, while the fancy cakes stood virtually untouched. The Philippine flag was everywhere in the décor filling up the hall, even the flowers were arranged in tricolor.

On our last night in Seoul, Ebron tendered an informal dinner at Gungjeon Garden, some 10 minutes' walk from Lotte. Platter after platter of beef ribs and tenderloin came for grilling on our long table garnished with assorted vegetables both fresh and pickled.

We ate slowly amid an artificial waterfall, swimming fishes, intimate lighting, and music from a chamber orchestra of young women garbed in blue traditional attire. Not wanting to be impolite to our host, we ate everything on our plate, including the chili paste and the dried seaweeds.

The famous Paul Henson was glaring at us across the table, as he couldn't do anything but quietly finish his daily serving of green and leafy vegetables.

MY NEPHEW Joey Claparols in San Francisco

CAMBRIDGE with Boston skyline

3 cities

From page D1

tarmac. It took us an hour to take off.

With air traffic and other aggravations, the question persists: How can we really address the problem of global warming and climate change? If this trend continues, how long before the planet dies?

The June 2007 issue of the National Geographic shows us in vivid color the effects of global warming: "The Big Thaw"—ice on the run and seas on the rise.

From Greenland to the Antarctica, the world is losing its ice faster than anyone thought possible. The threat posed by the vanishing sea ice of the Arctic and the retreating glaciers all over the world is real.

The current battle cry is to save the environment, yet no one seems to be addressing the problem. Are we too late to do anything? I say: No, as long as we walk our talk and start a sea change right now.

The bottom line is this: Healthy ecology means good business.

What good are San Francisco, Boston and New York when the planet is at risk?

The author is the president of the Ecological Society of the Philippines

Travel Briefs

RP joins HK Fashion Week

The Department of Trade and Industry brings the country's top fashion accessories designers and jewelers to Hong Kong Fashion Week 2007, July 10-13, at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center. Eleven local design companies will feature the Philippines' finest in costume jewelry, sterling silver, fine and high-fashion jewelry and fashion jewelry, accessories and leather goods. Trade Assistant Secretary Fe Agoncillo-Reyes, executive director of the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, said Filipinos could learn a lot during the week as Hong Kong was the center for fashion and creative design in Asia.

Travel Mart Sept. 7-9

The 18th Philippine Travel Mart will be held Sept. 7-9 at the Megatrade Halls of SM Megamall. This year's theme is "Everything's Here for You!" Organized by the Philippine Tour Operators Association (Philtoa), the country's largest association of tour operators, the event will showcase the country's diverse attractions. Visit www.philtoa.ph.

MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts will operate the new Traders Hotel on Xiao Yun Road, Upper East Beijing. A management agreement was recently signed by Shangri-La and the Beijing-based Super Shine Co. Ltd. The Traders Hotel, opening early August 2008 in time for the Beijing Olympic Games, will be the group's second Traders Hotel in the city. Designed by Barcelona-based Ricardo Bofill, the hotel will feature 419 rooms with city views.

Sweet deals

Singapore Airlines offers special discounted round-trip airfares until July 31: $160, Singapore; $260-$460 to popular destinations like Kuala Lumpur or Penang, Bangkok or Brunei, Jakarta or Saigon, Sydney or Perth. Prices are exclusive of taxes and surcharges. Visit singaporeair.com.

Expert advice

Travel Explorer, offered under the Travel Planner page of the Experience Philippines website gives visitors first-hand information and insights on travel destinations in the country. It is a unique voice/call service (toll-free number 1-888-974-9888) applicable to Canada and the United States, including Hawaii. The department has an ongoing promo in North America, "Out of the Box," an online raffle that ends Dec. 31. Visit www.experiencephilippines.ph.

Giving becomes even more rewarding

WHILE REWARDS ARE A MAJOR draw for credit-card users, cardholders are also regularly sharing their rewards with those in need, according to Grace D. Limjap, card marketing head of American Express Bank.

Thus, American Express has institutionalized the practice of giving by listing a number of nonprofit organizations and charities as beneficiaries of its loyalty program for card members.

Limjap said they were seeing more card members redeem rewards benefiting charity organizations like Children's Hour or Philippine National Red Cross.

American Express Peso Platinum Credit Card Members earn one Membership Rewards (MR) point for every P45 charged to their card. The rewards program also allows members to donate to nonprofit organizations like the Philippine Eagle Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, the De la Salle University Science Foundation and Ateneo Annual Fund which gives tuition assistance to Ateneo students facing serious unexpected financial crisis.

Every 4,000 MR points is equivalent to P1,000 in cash donation made to the card member's organization of choice.

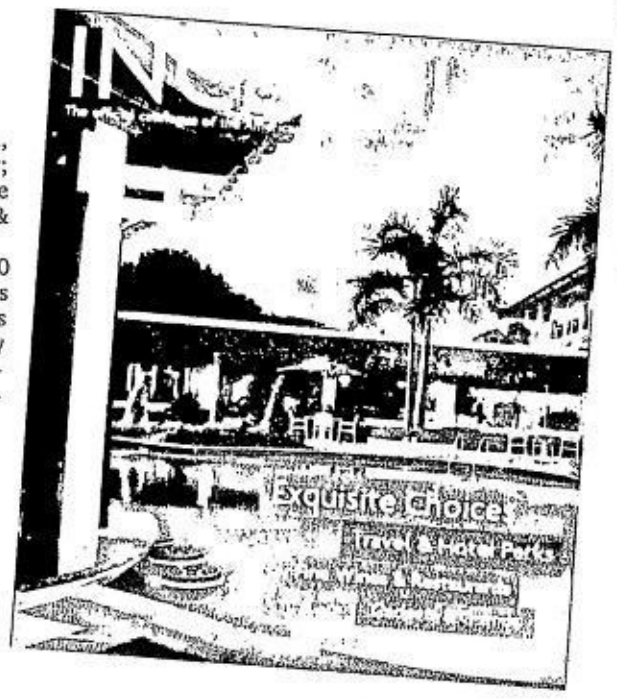
The latest issue of Incentivo, the American Express Membership Rewards Program catalogue, now includes in the section on financial rewards and charities nonprofit organizations involved in housing, disaster relief, children, education and wildlife.

The 2007 catalogue also gives a peek into what the affluent consider as "hot" items, places and experiences. For restaurants, it's Spiral at Sofitel; for gift vouchers, brands under Stores Specialist like Gucci, Charriol, Burberry and many more; wines, the Italian selection Prosecco Academia by Bottega, which comes with its own wine bag cooler; gadgets, Nintendo's latest interactive game console Wii; and experiential, the Eastern & Oriental Express luxury train trip.

Card members also have access to over 50 airlines through six frequent-flyer programs and stays in hundreds of resorts and hotels worldwide. They earn one air mile for every P45 charged to their card in almost all frequent-flyer partners, one of the lowest conversion rates.

Limjap said American Express chose the rewards they offered by studying the spending habits of card members.

Some rewards like spa experiences and treatments at certain salons may have been hot last season but not anymore this year. Limjap said American Express recognized that people change, tastes change. It stayed ahead of its clients by anticipating those changes, she said.



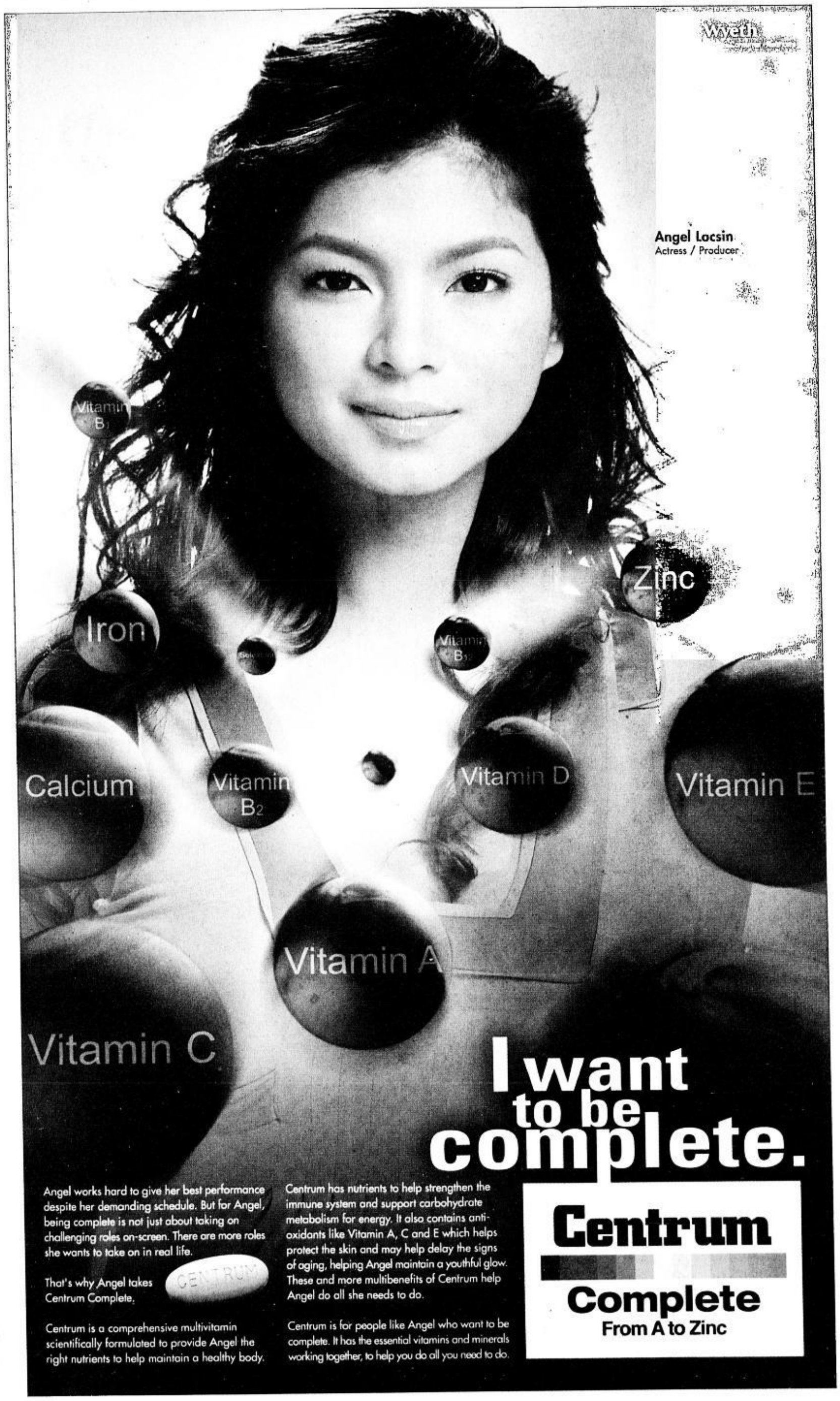
A complete Angel

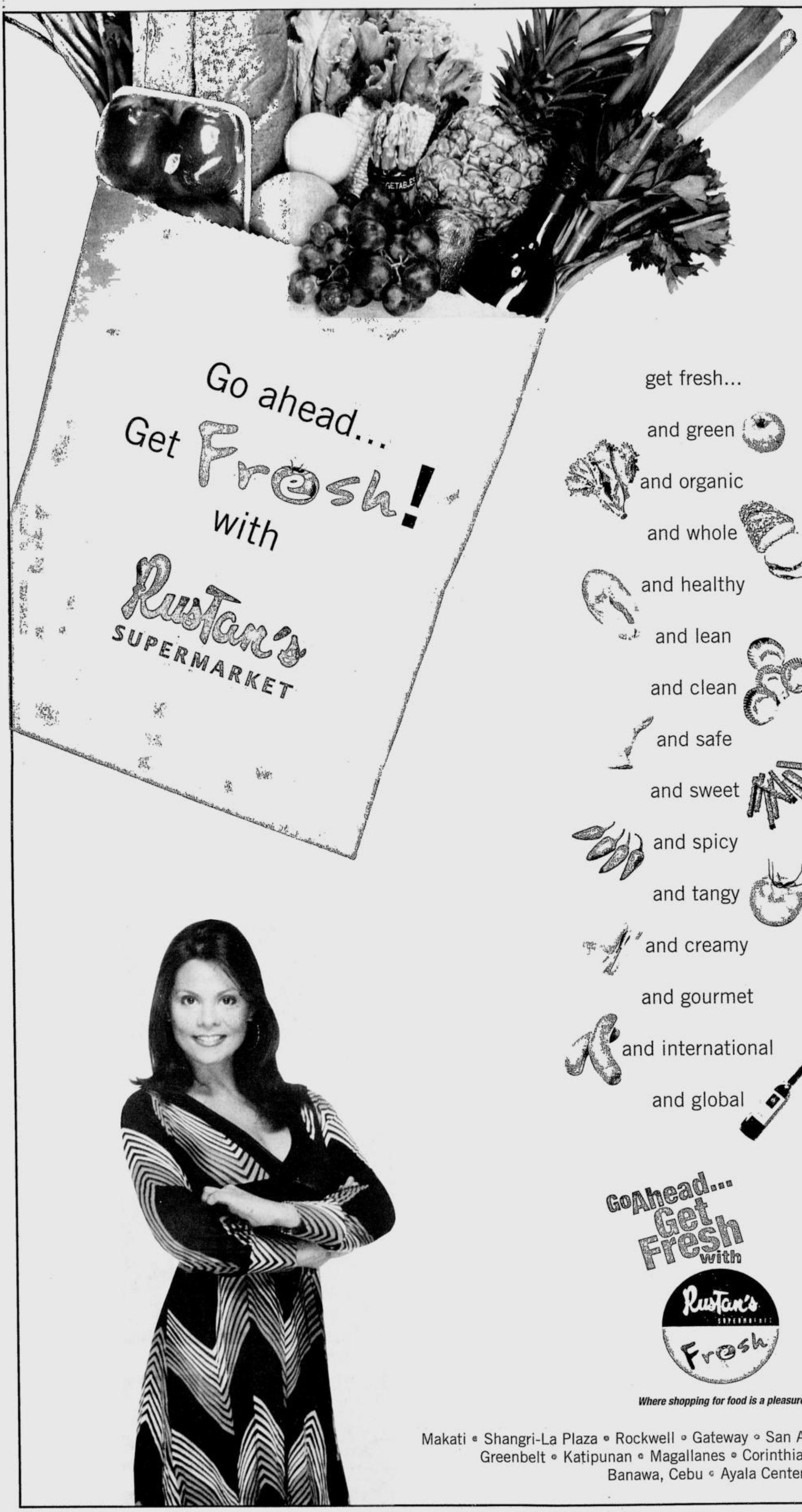
Like the many characters she plays, Angel is a strong and capable woman. Only eight years in the business, she has evolved into one of the country's biggest stars. She is also now a movie producer. Yet inspite of her accomplishments, she says it's still not enough. "There are so many things I still want to do," quips Angel. And one of them is to win an acting award. She wants to be more than just a celebrity with a famous name and a pretty face. Rather, she would like to be remembered as an artist – one of the best in the art of acting. She also wants to be a hero. But unlike the fantasy characters she plays, she wants to be a true-to-life hero, a detective. When given the chance, she wants to study criminology and pro-actively fight crime while championing the cause of abused women.

Hailing from a family of swimmers, Angel hopes to teach swimming someday. She especially wants to teach kids as they have a soft spot in her heart. In fact, she often goes to an orphanage and helps out any way she can.

Aside from that, she also helps at a foundation for the blind. She personally knows how tough life is for the blind; not many people know that she takes care of her blind father. "Gusto ko makakita na ulit ang dad ko, we're waiting for technology that will let him see again," says Angel.

Indeed, Angel is perfect as the new face of Centrum, because she embodies everything that the brand stands for. She has the drive to be complete, the urge to do more than what she's doing now. And that is what Centrum is all about, enabling people like Angel do what they need to do so they can be complete.

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Founder of school for orphans takes Pinay bride

WILLIAM Baldwin III and Maricel Barro

AMERICAN PHILANTHROPIST William D. "Pete" Baldwin III, who set up the country's first international boarding school for orphans in Coron, Palawan, wed recently Maricel Barro in an elegant ceremony at Le Pavilion in Pasay City.

Baldwin, founder of Children's Chance for Tomorrow (CCFT), met his future bride, a Leyteña, last year.

The courtship brought the couple to North and South America. Paul Cabral did the gown of the June bride while Frankie de Leon took care of the entourage. Also involved in the wedding were planner Rita Neri, videographer Jason Magbanua, and photographer Dino Lara. Hair and makeup were done by La Ñapa.

Music during the wedding ceremony was provided by String Minstrels led by Ed and Tina Pasamba.

Caterer was Le Soufflé while lighting during the wedding and the reception was provided by Forsc Inc. A 15-minute fireworks display entertained the guests before dinner was served inside the Le Pavilion tent.

Master of ceremonies was RJ Ledesma, columnist and magazine editor.

The New Minstrels gave a surprise performance of Broadway and pop classics.

Baldwin, who previously worked as a contractor in conflict areas, founded CCFT in 2005. The CCFT-Coron International School is the first international school in Palawan certified by the Department of Education.

AVENIDO-UY

Dr. Andrei Avenido, son of Dr. **Antero** and **Antonieta Avenido** wed Dr. **Jaymie Uy**, daughter of **Rafael** and **Nelia Uy** on May 12 at The Conservatory at The Peninsula Manila. Officiating clergy was Pastor Florante Siopan.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

ACBANG-ABAD

Archie G. Acbang, son of **Bernardo Acbang** (deceased) and **Lucia M. de Guzman**, wed recently **Cecilia C. Abad**, daughter of **Cenon B. Abad Sr.** (deceased) and **Juanita Cayetano**, at the Sto. Rosario Parish Church. Reception was held at Pilita's Restaurant.

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(The fat, that is.)

NEW ARGENTINA CORNED BEEF LITE.
50% LESS FAT. LESS SALT.
SO YOU STAY FIT AND HEALTHY.

JARDIEL-CERVANTES

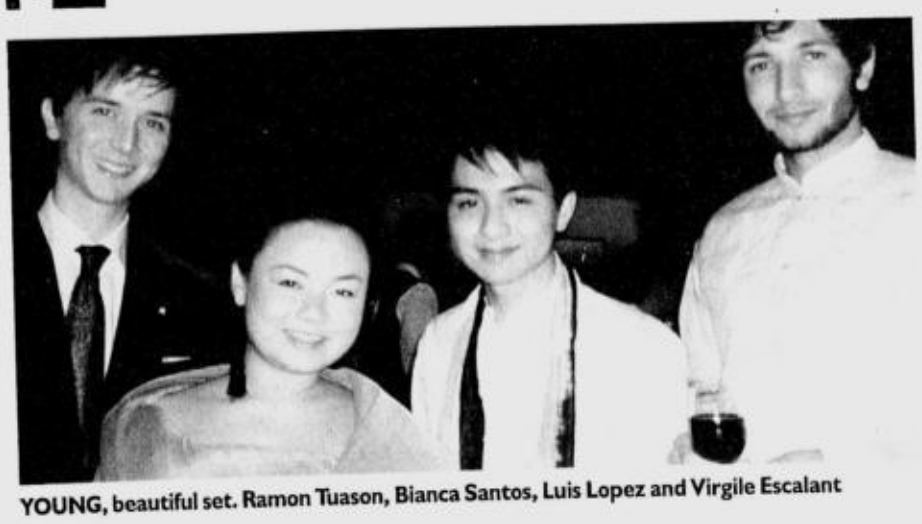
Miguel Cesar Jardiel, son of **Cesar** and **Zenaida Jardiel**, wed recently **Maria Korina Cervantes**, daughter of **Roque** and **Leila Cervantes**, at San Sebastian Basilica. Reception was held at Ibarra's Garden.

REYES-NACIONALES

Joseph Anthony L. Reyes, son of **Hermenegildo** and **Mercedita Reyes**, will wed **Charisse V. Nacionales**, daughter of **Rogelio** and **Dolores Nacionales**, on July 28 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine, Broadway, New Manila, QC. Reception will follow at Oasis in San Juan.

BRYANT-CABENIAN

Daniel Richard Bryant, son of **George Thomas** and **Linda Louise Bryant** will wed **Marisol Cabenian**, daughter of **Rogelio** and **Maria Cabenian** on July 28, at El Jardin, Splash Mountain, Los Baños, Laguna.


YOUNG, beautiful set. Ramon Tuason, Bianca Santos, Luis Lopez and Virgile Escalant

ABS-CBN Publishing GM Thelma Sioson-San Juan (second from left) with Andrew Gan, Raul Manzano and J Cu-unjieng

PRETTY young girls. Bettina Ocampo and Thea Jacinto

Happy marriage between fashion and technology

MUCH-LOVED designer Auggie Cordero

ABS-CBN Publishing royal couple Jeena and Ernie Lopez

PHILIPPINE Star president Miguel Belmonte and lovely wife Millet

LUCKY man of the Samsung evening Philip Cruz and son Ipe

TALENTED Firma couple Ricky Toledo and Chito Vijandre

EMPHASIS Salon GM Marge and Monchet Olives

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

The Samsung-backed Auggie Cordero gala was a smash hit! Being an accessory junkie, perhaps I could borrow from Auggie's wonderful collection of feathery headpieces

THE HAPPY MARRIAGE between fashion and Samsung mobile phones creates a perfect combination of haute couture and techno style. Indeed, Samsung's Ultra 2 Edition phones show off a spirit of style, sleekness and sophistication that is emblematic of the fashion industry.

In an elegantly orchestrated dinner at the Peninsula Manila's Rigodon Ballroom, the crème de la crème of Samsung's Ultra line of phones were recently unveiled to a discerning assembly of Manila's A-listers.

I missed the exquisite cocktails as I was, once again, running fashionably late. Luckily the main dinner party was just getting into full swing with dashing host **Edu Manzano** building up the excitement.

The sumptuous dinner had entertainment provided by those boys with built-in vocal instruments, the Akafellas, and a glam unveiling as models paraded out the new phones. The jaw-dropping surprise of the night, though, was when each of the special guests was presented his or her own unit—the latest Samsung SGH-U600—a sexy, zippy, classy, super slider phone for the tech-savvy individual.

Samsung has, indeed, been very aggressive with its promotion of new designs and features. My 9-year-old daughter **Annika** has on her wish list the Samsung Ultra Music F300 with its flipping option of a dual mp3 music player and mobile phone.

With Beyoncé doing endorsement duty on this model, so many kids are hoping to get this new gadget. Is it too early for Christmas yet?

Long overdue

Samsung Electronics has become an avenue to promote fashion and design, transcending any perceived limits as an electronics brand. Its individual sense of style, combined with design and sophistication, has greatly elevated the brand. Thus, it was fitting that Samsung sponsored the long-overdue fashion show of classy and timelessly classic designer **Auggie Cordero**.

Auggie has not had a show in more than 13 years, until ABS-CBN Publishing GM **Thelma Sioson-San Juan**, a lifelong friend, had the brilliant idea for him to stage one.

Auggie's clothes have always been known for their intricate attention to detail and construction, and these qualities were in brilliant display during the magnificent tribute held at the Manila Peninsula Ballroom last week.

The evening of superb Filipino design and artistry was also a very emotional one, as Auggie's faithful clients and friends showered him with bouquets of flowers at curtain call. It did not help that the music playing was quite dramatic, too. I personally have not met this superb designer, but I was so touched by his intimacy and closeness with his clients.

Before the show started, the bigwigs of ABS-CBN all came onstage to show their support for the designer and Samsung. This was supposedly the first time for print and TV media to jointly cover a fashion event, with Metro Magazine and the Lifestyle Network working together to cover all angles.

Being an accessory junkie/princess, I should get to know Auggie a bit more. Perhaps then I could borrow from his wonderful collection of feathery headpieces. The headgear were spectacular accents to his beautiful collection. With all the lacy bridal gowns and evening wear, it was truly a romantic evening.

Two lucky guests, **Philip Cruz** and **Tingting Cojuangco**, were chosen as the Samsung Man and Woman of the Evening, and both were given a Samsung Ultra mobile phone. Other lucky guests, like Marie France's sexy "I'm So Back" endorser **Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo**, got a three-day test drive on the new Nissan Patrol.

'Dress-crasher'

Auggie's night seemed to be a confluence of local fashion events because from the Cordero Show, most of the guests headed to Cuisine, Embassy Club at the Fort, for the annual Preview Magazine Best-Dressed Ball.

The look there was Retro Future, which could only be described as confusing. I felt like a dress-crasher, unable to abide with the dress code since my stunning gown by forever friend/designer **Rajo Laurel** was neither retro nor futuristic.

Being in Embassy heightens my sense that there is truly a new generation. The future looks all wrinkly when one sees there all the very young kids, many of whom are children of my friends, and all wearing micro-minis and sipping Martinis. Thank goodness the DJ music was awesome that night, with retro songs spun in techno arrangements.

It was wonderful to bump into Embassy owner and true friend **Tim Yap**. After all the separation angst between INQUIRER Super and him, he has moved on to another, more animated phase of his life—the TV world, where he can shine even brighter.

I seem to be surrounded by a post-INQUIRER group, but like the others, I am sure Tim will be even more successful with his new profession, although I will surely miss his features in Super.

Finest seafarers

Our country is filled with great designers, party eventologists and business tycoons who all indulge in social responsible activities. One such corporate head is Transnational Diversified Group CEO **Robbie Delgado**, who recently inaugurated the NYK-TDG Maritime Academy at Canlubang.

Located at Knowledge Avenue inside Carmeltown, the Academy will train our countrymen to become the finest maritime seafarers and future officers. The Philippines has the largest number of seamen in the world and they all contribute to our sense of Filipino pride. What other nationality comes to mind when one says "service with a smile?"

The facility was unveiled by **President Macapagal-Arroyo**, who took the time to tour the campus that impressively includes an Olympic-size pool, a building with actual ship simulation and boarding houses.

As part of TDG's corporate social-responsibility program, 20 students from the Sisters of Mary Boystown are company-sponsored at the Academy.

In his speech, JRD, as he is known, said the financial payback of the academy will take 50 years, but the business side is not the priority of the academy. Instead, the focus is truly to help future seafarers excel in their profession.

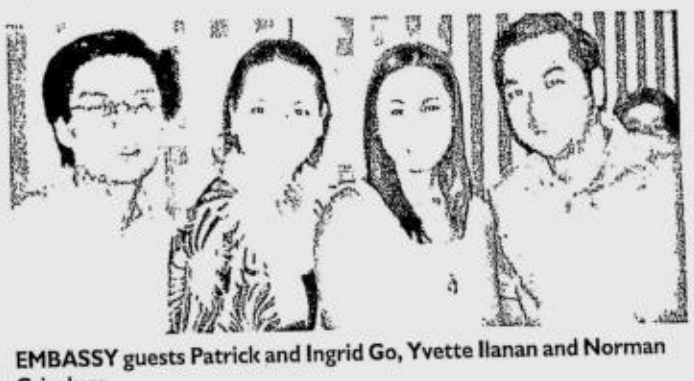
Now that is a happy marriage too—of social commitment and education!

E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

FAMILY FRIENDS. Nellie Delgado, Sisters of Mary nuns and INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto

ENGAGED couple Vanessa Pastor and RJ Ledesma

SAMSUNG mobile group head Fe Varilla flanked by handsome couple Paco Sandejas and Christine Jacob-Sandejas


EMBASSY guests Patrick and Ingrid Go, Yvette Ilanan and Norman Crisologo

ARCHITECT Chito Antonio, Dawn Zulueta and Mike Toledo

GLOBE Asiatique maven Divine Lee and Samsung VP Charles Choi

SHU UEMURA girls Tessa Dragon, Tina Tinio, Hindy Tantoco and Xeng Zulueta

TDG FAMILY. Helen Delgado, Japan Airlines GM Toshiro Morita, architect Meloy Casas, Doris Ho and architect Bong Recio

METRO Magazine editor in chief Mel Cuevas, Bettina Osmeña and Lulu Tan-Gan

RIA Francisco-Prieto, Pauline Suaco-Juan and Barbi Chan

NYK-TDG BLESSING. Mayor Joaquin Chipeco, Pat Sto. Tomas, Arturo Brion, Rep. Justine Chipeco, President Macapagal-Arroyo, NYK president Koji Miyahara, TDG president Robbie Delgado, chair Carlito Puno and Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki

NYK-TDG Maritime Academy building

LUCKY Samsung phone owners Ben Chan, Miguel Pastor, Mons Tantoco and Susan Joven

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Budding romance threatened by another suitor

'I fear that the other guy will create havoc in our lives... I am afraid for both of us'

DEAR EMILY,

I am working abroad and, like everyone else, it is really hard to be alone especially when you are surrounded by a bunch of both lovable and ugly-hearted men.

My boss and I are getting to know each other very well. It shouldn't be a problem since we are both single and responsible. But another guy likes me so much. Unfortunately we are in the same department.

He has already created a lot of problems for me like harassing and threatening me. My problem is I don't know whether I should pursue this great friendship-relationship with my boss. I fear that the other guy will create havoc in our lives.

This guy is a citizen of this country while my boss and I are both foreigners. I have to mention this because their culture is so different.

I really like my boss and, if things get better, it will be a blessing. But I am afraid for both of us. What shall I do?

MELLOW

There is already so much havoc, intimidation and terrorism everywhere around us and it infuriates me no end to think that even emotions are being held hostage, as in your case now!

Hey girl, do what you want to do if you are not breaking any rules anyway. I don't care if this guy is a native of this country you are working in. You are not a slave, you are not illegal and, if you do not owe him anything—obey the dictates of your heart.

No matter how much you fear him, do not give in to his demands if you do not care for him at all! Be strong and steadfast in what you believe in.

ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

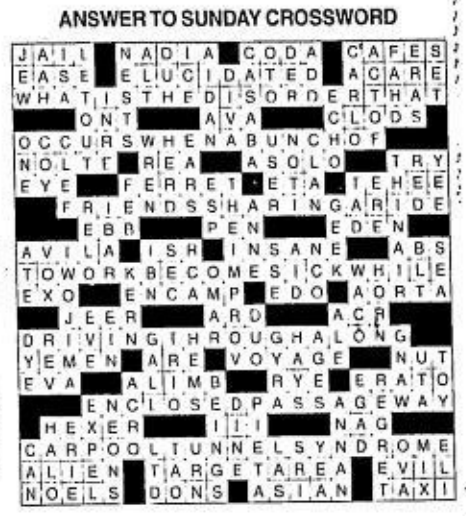
You should only be afraid if you are doing something stupid and illegal—against their country or religion.

If this creep continues to harass you, report him to the government that handles cases like this, as well as to the Philippine Embassy.

Just remember that foreigners have rights, too, in the country they are working in, however menial their jobs may be. And while you are in the process, tell this jerk to go jump and shake hands with the devil.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



STOP BEING A DANDRUFF VICTIM: Your Clear Solution

Does the world need another anti-dandruff shampoo?

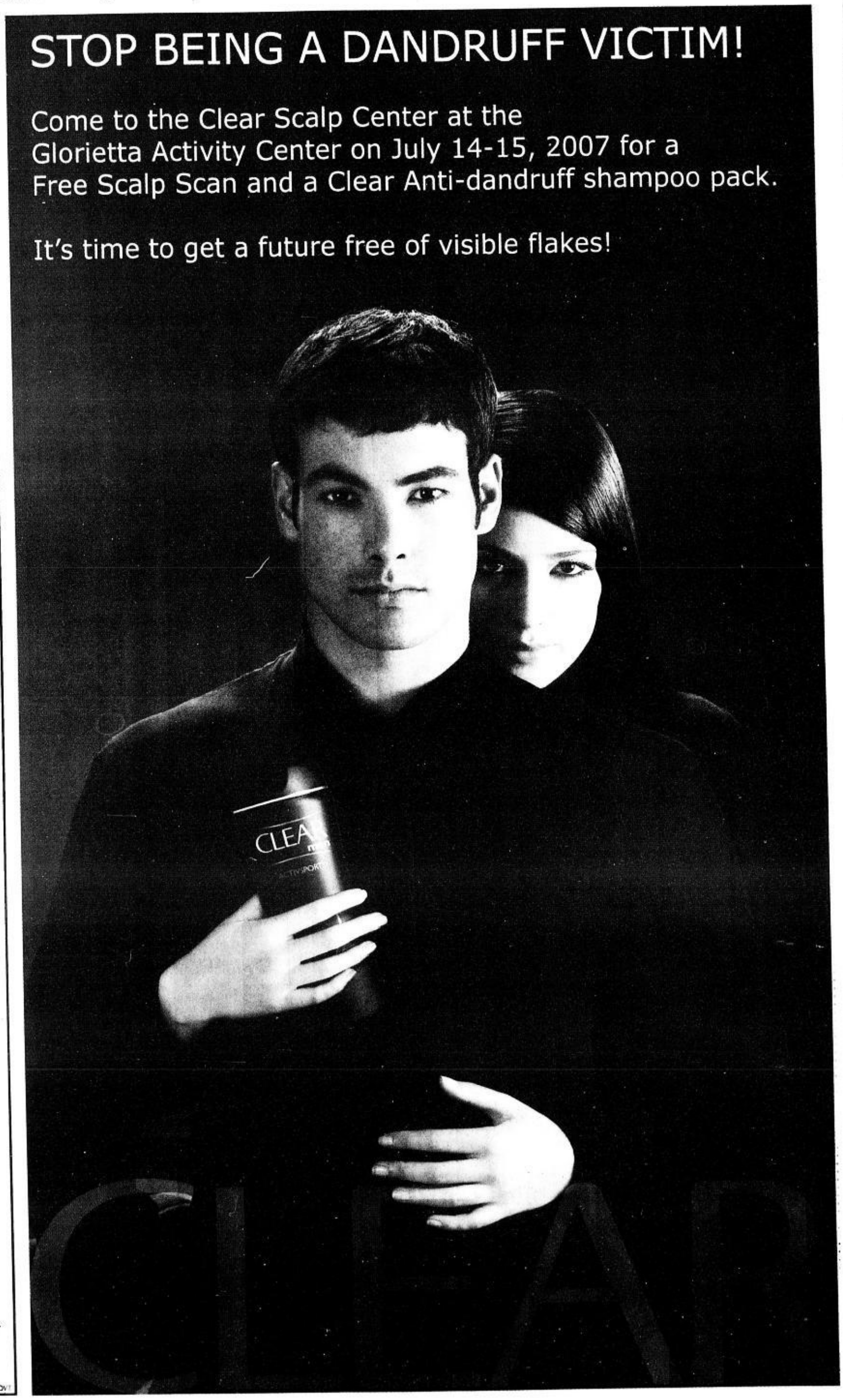
The answer seems to be yes, as studies show that 44% of Filipinos suffer from this embarrassing and annoying scalp condition. Fortunately, there's a new player in the game that has been clinically proven to offer unbeaten dandruff protection.

Clear is the all-new dandruff solution that easily and effectively eliminates flakes with every wash. It features a unisex range with four shampoo and two conditioner variants as well as a men's range with three shampoo options designed to address specific hair and scalp needs. Clear not only eliminates the problem but prevents dandruff from coming back-thanks to a patented and unique active ingredient, Zinc Vitanol.

For anyone who has had to avoid the color black, endure harsh scalp treatments and snide remarks that dandruff triggers, Clear anti-dandruff shampoo was created for you. The long-lasting, regular-use shampoo keeps dandruff at bay while maintaining your healthy and beautiful tresses, by cooling, refreshing and nourishing your scalp, relieving dryness, preventing hair breakage and itchiness.

Its extensive range offers extra nourishment for your hair and scalp, giving you a complete dandruff solution, which makes it the only shampoo to be endorsed by the International Academy of Cosmetic Dermatology.

ADV



PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

Alice S. Laya Memorial Golf Tournament

THE late Alice Sandoval Laya, one of the founders of Marinducare Foundation, Inc., was killed in the July 16, 1990 earthquake in Baguio City.

IN 1988, WHEN TERRIBLE typhoons ravaged Marinduque, Alice Sandoval Laya urged her friends from Marinduque to put up Marinducare (caring for Marinduque) to uplift the lives of people through livelihood projects.

Training programs were undertaken in different communities. A demonstration farm in Buenavista taught farmers scientific methods; copra buying seminars encouraged farmers to seek better prices for their produce; and cassava flour-making augmented their income.

Then Alice died in the tragic earthquake that hit Luzon in 1990. She was in Baguio attending a seminar of the United States Agency for International Development at the Hotel Nevada to get funding for the livelihood projects in Marinduque.

Patricia Nepomuceno-Jacinto said Alice always wanted to sit in front. During the earthquake, the roof collapsed. She did not get the chance to run out. Her husband, former Minister Jaime Laya, family and friends were devastated.

The Marinducare Foundation decided to continue what she started and help less fortunate Marinduqueños. It was what Alice would have called "reaching out with the heart."

The board has since included more projects. On its 19th year, the board is holding the Alice S. Laya Memorial Gold Tournament on July 26, at 10 a.m., at Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club.

For inquiries, text Tita Pat Jacinto at 0917-8436245; Romy Hermoso at 0917-5372514 or call 6327414; lawyer Greg Buhain at 0906-2729595 or call 9207544; Eddie Aliño at 0917-7913316; and the MFI office at 8535632.

New projects

Other activities being undertaken by Marinducare are a new demo farm in barrio Bantad in Boac; pre-school classes in several barrios of Boac; medicines for filariasis-infested communities and, with the Department of Health, construction of latrines in some barrios.

Officers

Marinducare's executive officers are Romeo L. Hermoso, chair; Patricia N. Jacinto, vice chair; Greg M. Buhain, vice chair, external affairs; Cynthia Paras-Santos, treasurer; Luisita S. Itchon, corporate secretary; Delia L. Hermoso, legal counsel; and Victor H. Rodriguez, chair emeritus. Members are Eduardo L. Aliño, Anatalio Balace, Angel L. Buñag, Augusto D. Hidalgo, Nydia Sagun and Francisco P. Fellizar.

Shroud of Turin

A centuries-old linen cloth bearing the image of a crucified man, the Shroud of Turin, has been revered for hundreds of years as the burial shroud of Jesus of Nazareth.

Locked away in a cathedral in Turin, Italy, the Shroud is only displayed three or four times a century, drawing pilgrims from all over the world.

Although the next official exposition of the Shroud is in 2025, Filipinos do not have to wait for a couple more decades or travel thousands of miles to see it. For the first time in the Philippines and in Asia, Shroud Exhibit International Inc. will present the Philippine Exhibition of The Mystery of the Shroud of Turin.

It opens July 20 at SM City-Pampanga then be taken to SM Mall of Asia, Sept. 8-Dec. 9; SM Davao, Jan. 18-Feb. 3, 2008; and SM City Cebu, April 4-27, 2008.

Hangad

The Ateneo-based *Hangad* will have its first a capella concert at 6 p.m. today at the Equitable PCI Bank Auditorium, HV dela Costa St., corner Makati Ave. Another performance is set July 15, 6 p.m.

Tickets are available at the gate at P150 each. The group can also sing at weddings. Visit www.hangad.com for more info and to order their albums.

Hangad is a group of young professionals and students bound by friendship and a passion for helping others know God through liturgical and inspirational music. They belong to the Jesuit Music Ministry. Paulo Kalaw Tirol is one of the composers.

Healing Mass

Fr. Zenki B. Manabat from the Prelature of Batanes at the Archdiocesan Shrine of Nuestra Señora de Guia (Ermita Church) will officiate at a healing Mass July 9, 6 p.m.

For information, call the shrine office at 5232754 or text 0921-7909361.

Goodbye, Julius

Our dear friend Julius Napal passed away June 14 from kidney failure and complications. His brother Ursus and his cousin Condrado Benitez II flew to Legazpi City for the funeral.

His friends Billy Roces and Edong Velasco, among others, gave him a beautiful send-off. Please pray for the repose of his soul.

When I knew him in the early '70s, Julius was teaching at the School of Fine Arts of the Philippine Women's University and managing the Unlad building across PWU.

Julius was very good-looking and bright. When I learned he was suffering from kidney failure and had to undergo dialysis three times a week, I felt bad for him.

According to his close friends, Julius went peacefully and did not suffer long. May his soul rest in peace.

Julius is survived by his son Daniel and his family who lives in Spain.

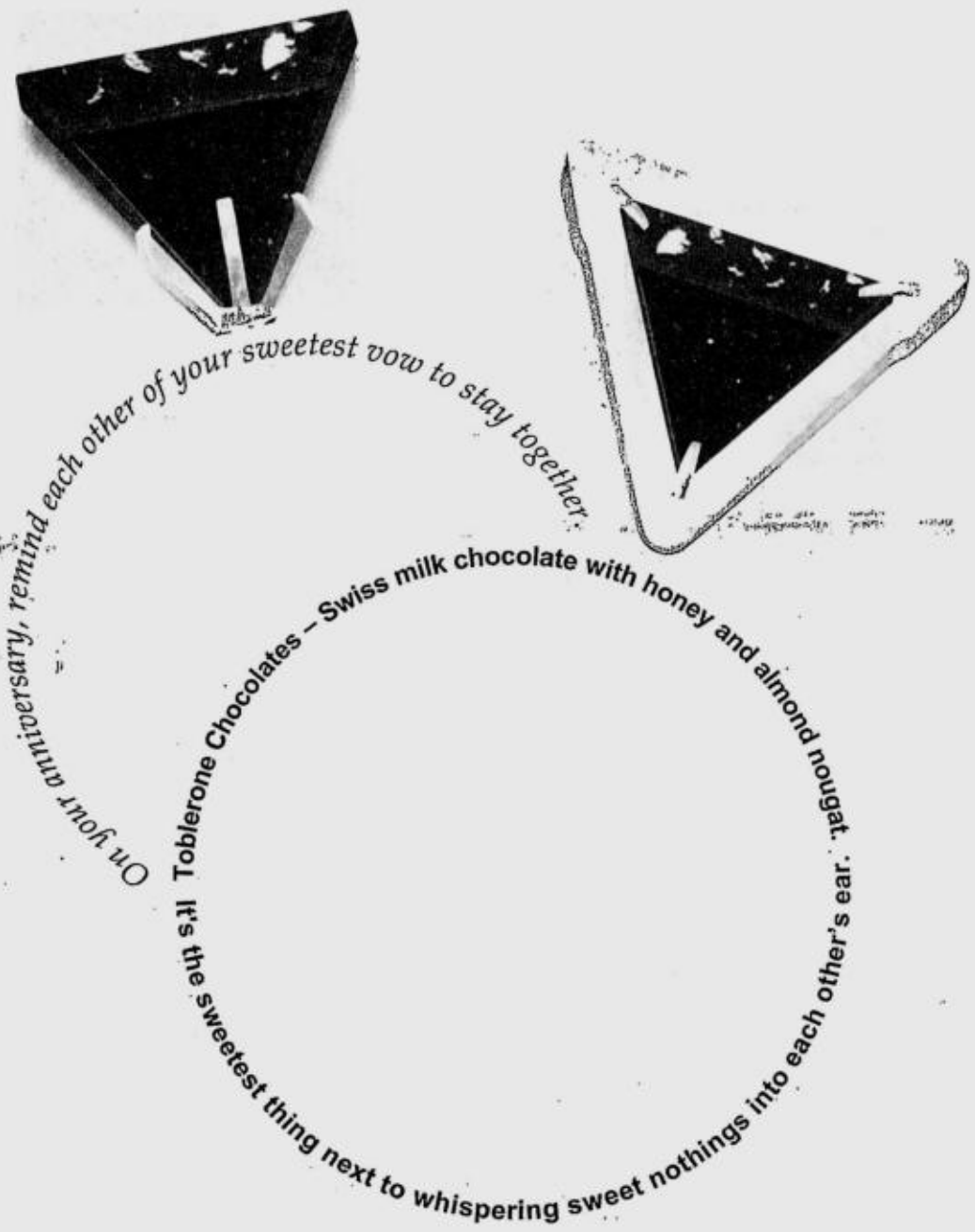
Feast day

The feast of Our Lady Rosa Mistica will be on July 13. There will be a Mass at 12 noon at the Harrison Plaza Chapel. Our Lady under this title is a powerful intercessor. Ask her for help on her feast day and the answered prayer is like her gift to you.

Book

The book on Bishop Alfredo Verzosa written by Fr. Ericson Josue will be given to all bishops during the plenary session of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines at the Pius XII Catholic Center today, July 8.

THE SWEETEST VOW



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Videoke for OPM fans

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If you want to relive the good ol' days of the '70s, pieces from famed Manila sound and Pinoy folk and rock music of the likes of Hotdog, Hagibis, Mike Manopol, Sampaguita, Freddie Aguilar, Asin, and Florante are also on the play list.

Also included in the repertoire are 1,250 of the latest to the greatest English songs from artists like Pussycat Dolls, Puff Daddy, Beyonce, Paris Hilton, Black Eyed Peas, Sugababes, Kelly Clarkson, Fantasia, Matchbox 20, Ashlee Simpson.

The system optimizes mp3 technology for videoke use with "Real Sound." The feature lets you sing with orchestra accompaniment, string instruments, second voice, and backup singers.

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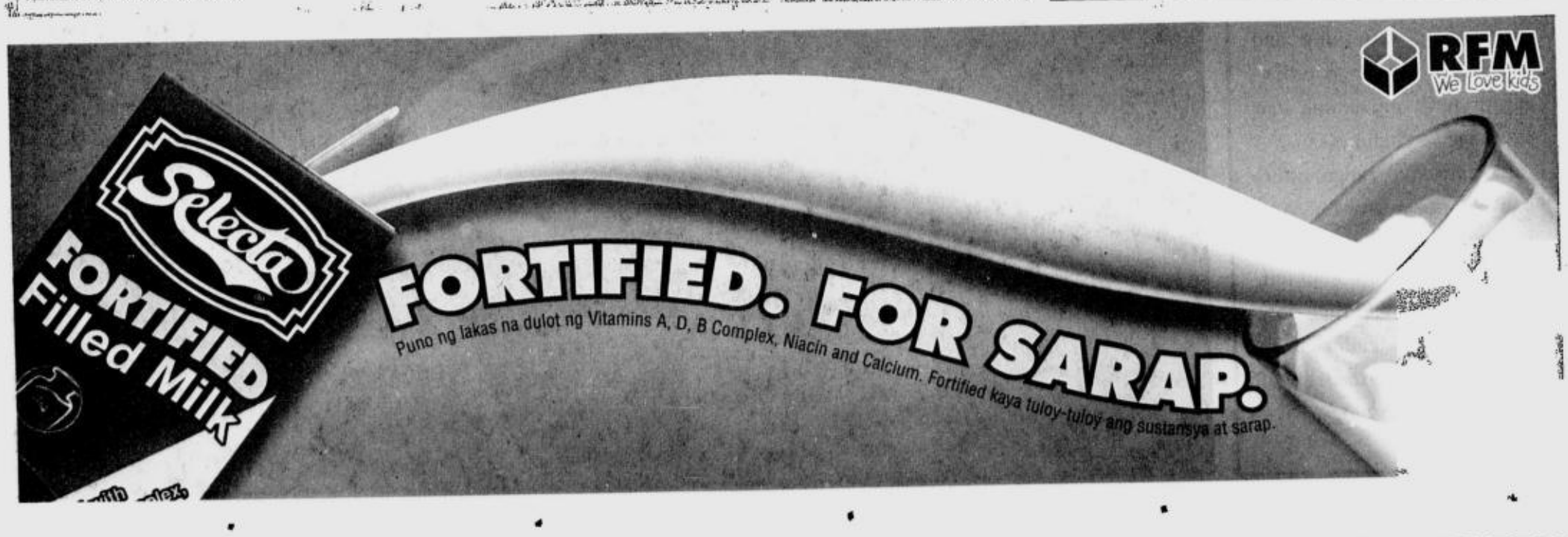
ZIFLER Realsound Portable Box Videoke



ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Guballa

How self-worth affects your child

A child who has a healthy sense of self will not only love himself or herself but will be able to love in an even higher way through service to other people

MARCO BEGAN THE SCHOOL YEAR AS A smart, inquisitive and happy 7-year-old boy eager to learn new things and acquire new experiences. The first quarter was uneventful and Marco brought home excellent grades.

Toward the middle of the school year, however, his parents began to notice a marked change in Marco's behavior. In the mornings, it became very difficult to wake him up, and he was sullen or belligerent most of the time. Toward the middle of the year, his grades had slipped tremendously that he almost failed one subject.

Alarmed at what was taking place, his parents took him to a child psychologist, who found that Marco was being traumatized by his Math teacher. She would regularly embarrass him in class via name-calling and would glare at him when he could not get the right answer.

In a matter of months, Marco's self-worth had seemingly jumped out of the window, affecting every aspect of his emotional and academic life.

Self-worth or self-esteem has been defined in many ways, but most of the definitions address aspects of how we view and value ourselves.

"Feeling good about yourself" or "actualizing one's own attributes" or "being validated by others" are some of the common definitions of a healthy self-esteem. By whatever manner it is defined, countless studies have shown that self-esteem or self-worth is a basic and important component of who we are as individuals, and the level of that self-worth certainly affects who we are collectively as a society and as a nation.

Much of society's ills—crime, corruption, addiction, ostentatious displays of wealth, excessive hubris—has been attributed to low self-esteem.

William Damon—senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, director of the Stanford Center on Adolescence, and a professor of education at Stanford University—is the author of "Greater Expectations: Overcoming the Culture of Indulgence in Our Homes and Schools" (1995).

He says that self-esteem should not be viewed as an end in itself. Self-esteem is a perfectly good thing for people to have, but it should be the result of good behavior. In other words, you should feel good about yourself because you've done something right.

Children shouldn't go around saying "I'm terrific" no matter how they're behaving. We want to promote self-esteem that comes from achievement and from service to others. But when the child has done something wrong, the child should feel bad about that.

This is not to say that the child should go around saying "I'm a bad person," but the child should say, "I did a bad thing, and I can learn to do better."

Greatest gift

Well-loved psychologist Dr. Honey Carandang echoes this in her latest book, "Self-Worth and the Filipino Child." Carandang, who has worked with countless children and families over a span of over three decades, pioneered group play therapy for children and family therapy in the country. She says that the greatest gift we can give our children is a healthy and positive self-concept.

"The child's self-concept and self-worth do not develop because of his/her abilities or the lack of them. Rather, they depend a lot on the messages about himself/herself that the child absorbs from the significant people in his/her life, especially those that have an impact during his/her growing-up years, namely parents, family members and teachers."

Carandang adds that it is important for parents and teachers to look inward and ask themselves the following questions:

Am I generally facilitating or hindering a person's self-esteem? What is the first thing I notice in a person or in a situation? Do I jump in to criticize and correct what is wrong, or do I notice the positive aspects first? Do I express my observations openly?

Carandang further says that a child has a very sharp antennae, able to pick up whether an adult has a solid sense of self-worth or not. "They don't 'learn' self-worth in the traditional sense. They absorb it in a more unobtrusive and deeper way," she explains.

A child who has a healthy sense of self-worth will not only love himself or herself but will be able to love in an even higher way through service to other people. Damon says that true concern for the well-being of others subordinates the inwardly directed desires of the self. This love is at the core of healthy self-esteem.

Things to remember

What can parents and teachers do to help nurture a healthy sense of self-worth in every child? Carandang's book gives several tips:

Spot the child's area of competence, and start to increase his self-worth through that area. For example, if you notice that your child loves to draw or write, or seems to excel in a particular sport, encourage him and enroll him in classes that will further hone his skills.

Don't label the child. A very common oc-

HOW SELF-WORTH/ F2

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P930

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Winning the homework battle

By Queena N. Lee-Chua

HOMEWORK DOES NOT RANK high on pleasure lists, yet it is a necessary task. It reinforces topics discussed in class, leading to better understanding. Term papers, science experiments, civics projects give students a chance to hone their knowledge in a creative way. Best of all, by doing homework regularly, students learn to develop good study habits.

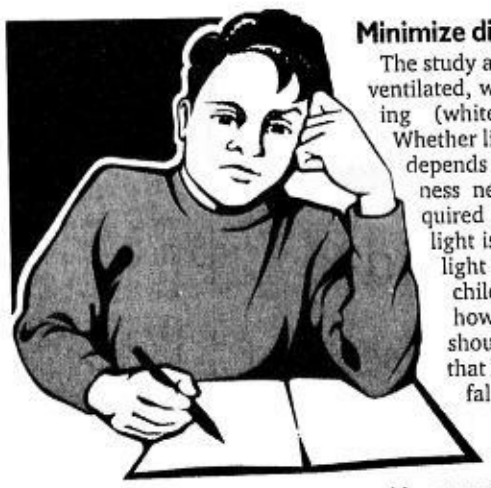
It is up to parents to ensure that homework does not become a battleground. In our surveys of Filipino public and private high school achievers, we have found that parents (and other relatives) make the best tutors.

"But my daughter Jane and I fight over assignments," my friend wails. "I threaten, I cajole, I bribe. In Jane's old school, homework was rarely given, but since transferring to this one, she has had assignments every day. She doesn't want to do them."

Doing homework well is not a question of willpower, but of harnessing good strategies so that it becomes a habit. For the past five years, Jane never did homework, so it has not become instinctive. Right now she is struggling, since developing any habit entails discomfort and resistance. But once it is established, things will fall into place.

According to experts, losing weight is not so much a battle of will (mouth versus food), but rather a lifetime of good eating and exercise. The same is true of homework. It is not a war (child versus parent, or student versus assignment), but a set of effective strategies that eventually becomes regular habits.

> Doing assignments is not a question of willpower, but of harnessing good strategies so that it becomes a habit



Develop a set routine

Not all children, especially teens, have a set time for study. They may do homework after dinner, in between TV shows, or perhaps only hours before exams when they pull an ineffective all-nighter. In our survey, we have found that the best students put business before pleasure. They tackle homework first when they reach home, and only turn to other pursuits when they have finished.

Many top students in public schools are excused from chores when they have lots of assignments. Their parents sacrifice by doing these household tasks instead.

"The main responsibility of my children right now," says a father whose kids are doing well in a public school in Bulacan, "is to study hard. They can help us in our work afterwards."

Aside from a set time for study, children need a designated place for the activity—if possible, their own desk. A desk signifies that studying is serious business. US educators Harold Stevenson and James Stigler attribute the generally superior academic performance of Asian over Western children in international studies partly on this fact: "By providing space and a personal desk, parents not only make it easier for their children to study, they also convey the message that they consider studying to be important. Children feel, in turn, that they must justify the parents' sacrifices by devoting themselves appropriately to their schoolwork. In one home in Taiwan, we found the father, a businessman, doing his office work on a tiny couch in the middle of the living room. Although he had no desk at home for himself, each of his two elementary school children had desks. If there is a desk in an American home, it is more likely to belong to a parent than to a child."

In crowded Filipino homes, the kitchen table can serve as a desk.

Minimize distractions

The study area should be well-ventilated, with sufficient lighting (white light is best). Whether light is bright or dim depends on the level of alertness needed. Focus is required for math, so more light is preferred, but low light can help when the child is reflecting on how to do an essay. It should not be too dim that he strains his eyes or falls asleep.

Temperature should be neither too warm nor too cold, something that parents rarely think about. The science grades of Carlos, a third grader, were not too good. When I visited his house, I discovered that he often felt too cold in the study room. His aunt, who served as his tutor, was literally a warm-blooded lady, and she would switch the aircon to high, leaving the little boy out in the cold, so to speak.

Minimize distractions during study time. It is best not to have a TV, phone or stereo in the room. At the very least, ensure that they are all turned off. A mother of an Ateneo High School student leader institutes quiet time for the household when her son is studying. For that period, everyone—including chatty house-help—is engaged in quiet activities such as reading, knitting or napping.

In families of top students in Marikina public schools, the parents put the TV on mute while their kids study.

Some students claim that they study better with the stereo blaring, but studies show that the only benefit of loud music is to help kids unwind. It does not promote learning. A teen stressed out from school may chill out as he listens to his favorite CD, but he should probably not start doing physics at this time. After 15 or 30 minutes, he should be sufficiently clear-headed to begin the work, with the music off.

Tackle the hardest topics first

We tend to avoid things we dislike, and to do them at the last minute, if at all. Nina, a Grade Four student, does not like math. When she gets home, she reads the English text, memorizes Mandarin words, studies the map.

If she has time, she grudgingly starts doing the math homework. She is already exhausted, so she commits mistakes. She wants to get math over with, so she does not spend time reading the lesson and barely understands half of what she sees. She flunks the quiz the next day and dislikes math even more, which makes her avoid spending time on the subject, and so on.

This vicious cycle contributes to anxiety and loathing, and finally to the thought that she is terrible in math.

What should Nina do? Math is her weakness, so she needs to focus on it first. At the start, her mind is not yet filled with other topics, and with little interference, she can concentrate well. Nina has not yet expended energy on other subjects, so she should have enough strength to study complex details.

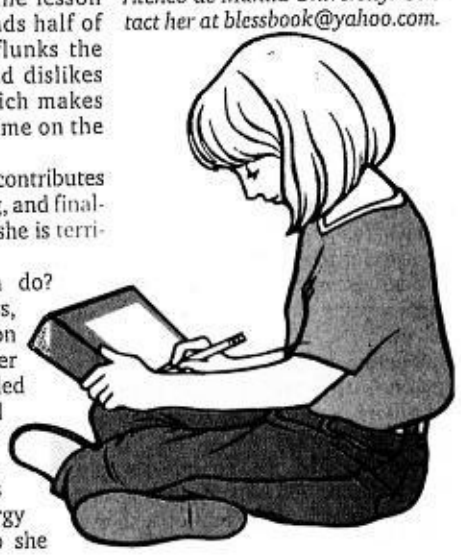
Besides, finishing the hardest things first gives a psychological boost. Easier tasks do not require as much effort, and what Nina finds easiest can be left for last.

As a rule of thumb, students should spend double the time on complex subjects than on those they find simpler to understand.

Here are more tips, to be followed consistently: Set good goals. Eat well and get enough rest. Take breaks in between subjects. Never cram. Parents should make expectations clear, including consequences for sloppy work.

When homework becomes a habit, then it will cease to be a battle.

Queena N. Lee-Chua is a professor of math and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. Contact her at blessbook@yahoo.com.



HORSEBACK riding in Tagaytay Highlands

STUDENT participants with PMPMI employees led by managing director Chris Nelson

Top students choose their own adventure

A STUDENT experiences rappelling for the first time.

PHILIP MORRIS PHILIPPINES RECENTLY held an innovative, physically and mentally challenging event dubbed "Choose Your Own Adventure" at the Tagaytay Highlands.

A diverse group of 40 students leaders from UP, Ateneo, DLSU, UST and Mapua were selected from 2,000 students who applied for the event. A contingent from Philip Morris Philippines was also on hand to work side-by-side with the students, who took on adventures that ranged from motoring 4X4's and All-Terrain-Vehicles (ATV's), nature trail horseback-riding, biking and rappelling, to name a few.

Country managing director Chris Nelson led the opening ceremonies.

"The best thing about taking a risk is the reward that sometimes comes after it. You all took a risk today, to hop on a bus with students that you didn't know, to participate in an adventure that you didn't really understand. And the likely reward is that you'll leave today learning more about yourself, more about each other, and more about Philip Morris. You're all probably looking for more career opportunities, looking for doors to open. You have the key today to open many doors—doors to yourself, doors to each other, doors to Philip Morris," he said.

Nelson then gave the participants a set of keys for their morning adventure: car relay racing. The group was divided into two teams, each with a pit stop crew, tools crew and parts crew, and drivers. The contest featured mind-bending obstacles and problem-solving tasks, all designed to mirror the Philip Morris Brand Values: having a passion for getting the most difficult things done with a sense of urgency, speed, anticipation, decisiveness and risk-taking.

MOUNTAIN biking on uphill slopes

PARTICIPANTS compete to change tires the fastest during the car relay adventure.

Following lunch at the Highlands Steakhouse, the students were asked to help themselves to the drums and percussion instruments that were laid out before them. Their random, erratic and individual beats slowly and seamlessly became one unified rhythm.

Program hosts Dylan Halili and PM marketing services manager Melanie Moya then related this activity to careers-building.

"You have to discover how you can keep on 'beating your own drum' and keeping it in synch with the rhythm of the environment you are in," they said.

Exhibits from the Operations, Sales, Marketing, and Corporate Affairs departments of PM soon followed, to provide the participants a closer look at the company's workings. HR Management & Organization Development manager Lourdes Velecina explained: "This allowed them to discover things they didn't know or didn't expect from a company like PM."

The participants noted with keen interest the company's state-of-the-art manufacturing practices, its code of responsible marketing and the company's active involvement in a wide array of corporate social responsibility activities in education, environment, arts and community-building.

Living up to the event's name, the participants were then given the chance to choose their own adventures. Up for grabs were opportunities to drive an ATV and 4x4 vehicle through rough terrains, horseback riding along a nature trail, mountain biking through uphill and downhill slopes, and rappelling.

During the recognition dinner, Ann Dalupan congratulated the participants for stepping up to the day's many challenges, while Management Team members Vincent Nguyen, Roy Manalili and Larry Tan shared how their PM careers have also played out like adventures.

How self-worth ...

From page F1

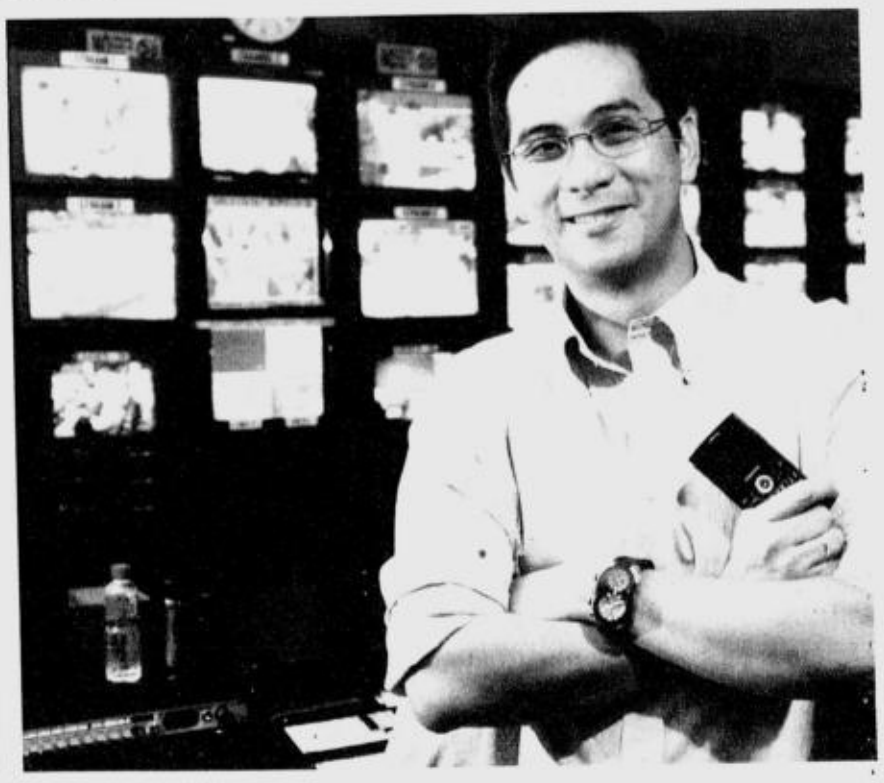
currence among teachers and within the family setup, name-calling—that is, calling a child *malikot, bobo, mabagal*—can be very damaging. Labels have a way of sinking deep into the self and becoming self-fulfilling prophecies.

Don't insult the child's person. Criticize the behavior in a specific and concrete way. And when you criticize, provide alternatives.

Develop your own self-esteem. Find the support you need as a parent or as a teacher. Always have an awareness of your strengths and limitations. Remember that you have the power to build or tear down a child's sense of self-worth, so always be conscious of what you say and do.

Marco's story has a happy ending. After several months of play therapy, he is now back in school and doing very well. The teacher who traumatized him has left to join the ranks of our OFW's. She now teaches at an elementary school in North Carolina where, hopefully, she will no longer terrorize her young wards.

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com



ABOVE, from left, Globe Asiatique's Divine Lee, Beverly Hills 6750's David Bunevacz, director and "Pinoy Big Brother" creator Lauren Dyogi

ENGINEER and photographer Victor Consunji

Multitasking wonder

THE RECENTLY LAUNCHED SAMSUNG ULTRA MESsaging i600 Smartphone—with its slim, user-friendly design and innovative, cutting-edge functions—is perfect for the multitasking individual.

The phone has feature-rich functionalities, advanced messaging capabilities and unmatched connectivity. Measuring only 11.8 mm and weighing a mere 105 g, the Samsung i600 is the world's thinnest 3.5G smart phone with a full QWERTY keyboard.

It blends the desktop functionality of the Windows Mobile 5.0 platform with extensive multimedia capabilities to help people work on the go, stay in touch with family and friends or just have fun.

Victor Consunji, the general contractor of VconsunjI Inc., likes the Samsung i600 for its no-nonsense organizational features. "The camera allows me to take snapshots of the work in progress," he says.

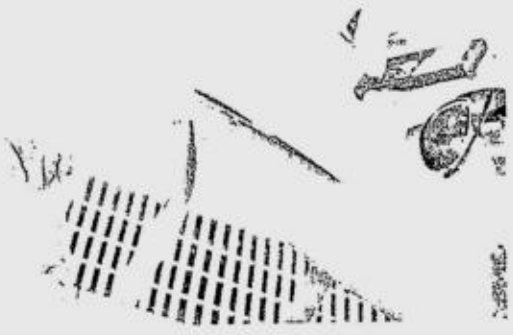
Techie German Hagedorn, proprietor of The Outlet retailer of women's clothes, accessories and export overruns, says the Samsung i600 is the perfect phone for her. "I can access my mail easily from anywhere with no hassle."

Lauren Dyogi, ABS-CBN vice president for entertainment, appreciates Samsung i600's wide and graphic LCD screen as well as its ability to store his important files without affecting other functions. "As the producer of 'Pinoy Big Brother,' I am on call 24/7. My phone keeps me organized and allows me to keep a file of my important ideas."

Divine Lee, Globe Asiatique vice president for international sales, seeks a mobile phone that addresses her business needs and simultaneously matches her sense of style. "I love that the Samsung i600 can keep up with my multitasking lifestyle."

David Bunevacz, head of Beverly Hills 6750 and Strategic Comprehensive Consultants Incorporated, says his Samsung i600 is his accountant. "It reminds me when bills are due. I would probably forget 60 percent of the stuff I need to do if it's not in my phone."

ENTREPRENEUR Techie Hagedorn

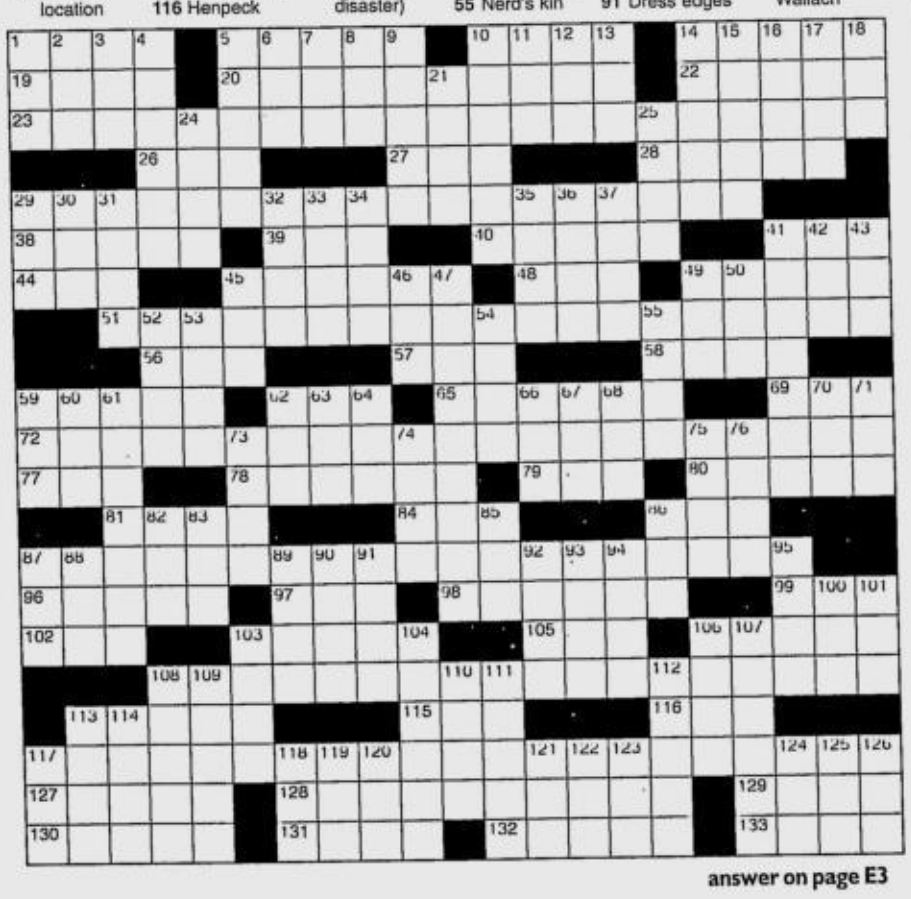


SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — PROBLEM

ACROSS
1 Prison
5 Comaneci of gymnastics
10 Musical finale
14 Java joints
19 Slacken
20 Made clear
22 Without — in the world
23 Start of a riddle
26 Ottawa's prov.
27 Gardner of old movies
28 Lummoxes
29 Riddle, part 2
38 "Affliction" star Nick
39 Stephen of "Michael Collins"
40 Sing — (croon alone)
41 Attempt
44 See 129-Across
45 Weaselike pet
48 Greek "H"
49 Giggle
51 Riddle, part 3
56 Dwindle
57 Writing tool
58 Creation location
59 St. Teresa of —
62 Galilee loc.
65 Daft
69 Belly muscles
72 Riddle, part 4
77 Lead-in for skeleton
78 Pitch a tent
79 Old name of Tokyo
80 Big blood carrier
81 Bronx cheer
84 Suffix with dull
86 Down's opposite: Abbr.
87 Riddle, part 5
96 Sanaa site
97 "Odds — ..."
98 Journey
99 Giant fan
102 Gabor from Hungary
103 Out on — (vulnerable)
105 Whiskey grain
106 Poet's Muse
108 End of the riddle
113 Evil spell caster
115 Sundial hour
116 Henpeck
117 Riddle's answer
127 Martian, e.g.
128 That which is aimed for
129 With 44-Across, malevolent look
130 Yule songs
131 Puts on, as clothes
132 Of the East
133 Cab

DOWN
1 Israelite
2 Sound of relief
3 "This — test"
4 Release
5 Tree homes
6 Elevation: Abbr.
7 "How obvious!"
8 Bar "rocks"
9 "Blink" actor Quinn
10 Kind of melon
11 Great Plains Indian
12 Aachen article
13 Find a sum
14 Monte —
15 — God (natural disaster)
16 Longtime Saudi Arabian king
17 Notable timespans
18 In position
21 Met soloist
24 About
25 Bounced-back sound
29 Two halves
30 Artfully shy
31 Musical symbol
32 Songbird
33 Goat group
34 Servings of corn
35 Net surfer
36 Brief denial
37 Big family
41 Thing to vanish into
42 Scarlet, e.g.
43 "— -haw!" (rodeo cry)
45 Shortest mo.
46 Paranormal gift
47 N.Y.C. comedy club
49 Little bit
50 Browning's "before"
52 Move, in real estate lingo
53 Building beam
54 Poet Sexton
55 Nerd's kin
59 Had dinner
60 — populi (popular opinion)
61 Pacific battle site in WWII
62 "Son of," in Arabic names
63 "Now hold on a —!"
64 Toshiba rival
66 NNW's opposite
67 Help out
68 Sgt., say
70 Classic deli sandwich
71 Red or Dead
73 "Show Boat" composer Jerome
74 General Bradley
75 City south of Dallas
76 Bugle, e.g.
82 Preceding night
83 One, in Bonn
85 Small band
86 Malt liquor
87 Change the color of
88 Give gas to
89 Audacity
90 Small band
91 Dress edges
92 Jazz's Spyro —
93 Robert of "Airplane!"
94 A long time
95 Chew (on)
100 Stage star Hagen
101 Tot amuser
103 Height: Prefix
104 Entities
106 "Oh dear!"
107 Lament
108 Drive out
109 Las Vegas lights
110 Sup
111 Vatican sculpture
112 Former UN chief Kofi
113 Angelic ring
114 Ashtabula's lake
117 Oil holder
118 British "Inc."
119 Chinese principle
120 Fancy vase
121 Vegas lead-in
122 Lanka lead-in
123 Nay opposer
124 Eggs, in labs
125 Stir together
126 Hollywood's Wallach



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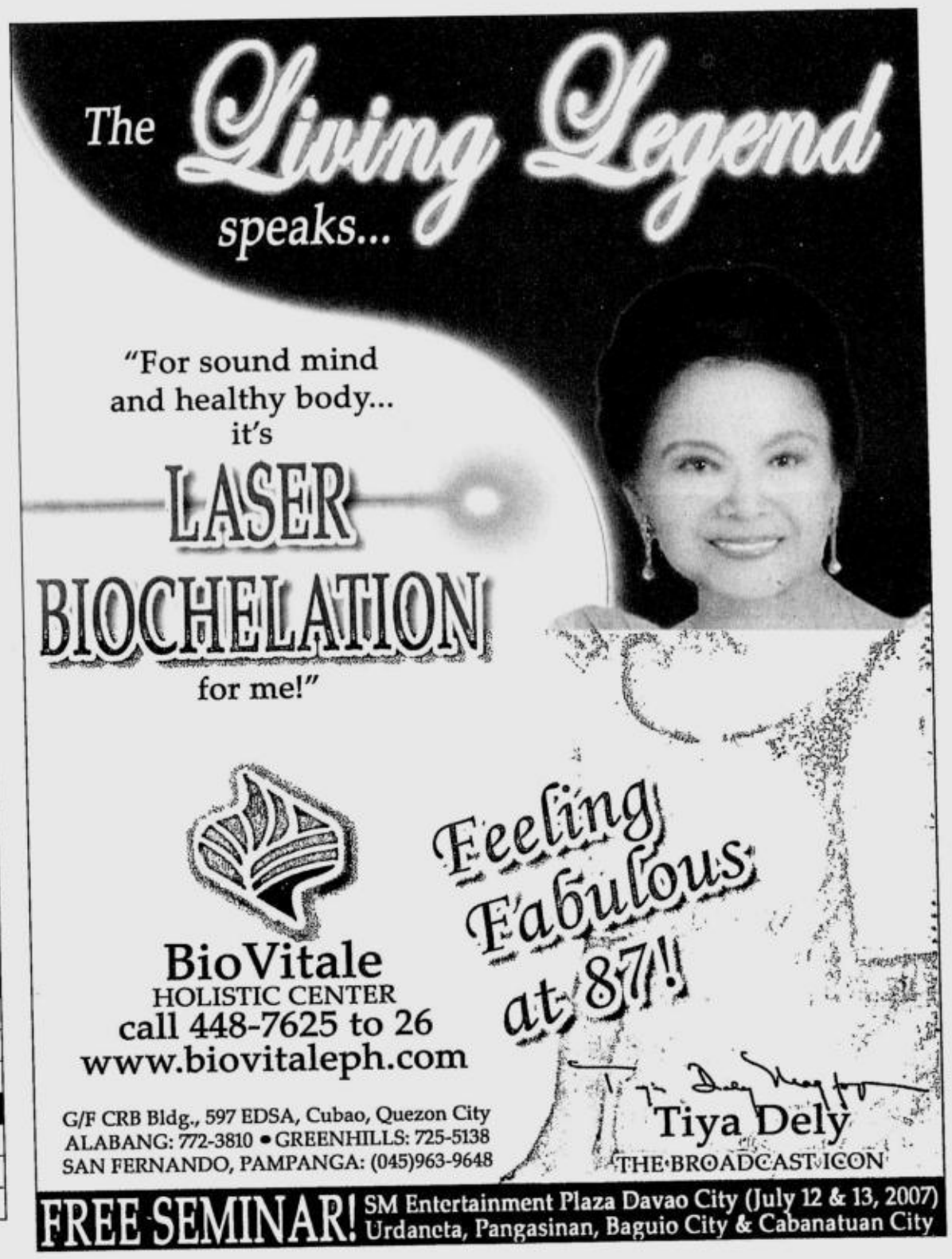

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Nokia N76. The computer done beautifully.

The Nokia N76 is the computer done beautifully. This newest model in the Nokia Nseries features the latest in multimedia technology and modern design. It recognizes and meets the demands of the sophisticated, discerning and most of all, passionate mobile user. With its many advanced features and slim, sleek packaging, the Nokia N76 fulfills the individual's strong desire for both style and substance in their lifestyle.

Gabbie dela Rama
Editor-in-Chief, Fully Booked

MYX Magazine Managing Editor **Gabbie dela Rama** is a no-frills gal who prefers to go directly-to-the-point. "I love music," is her simple reply when asked about her job. That's the same way she answers about being the editor-in-chief of FULLY BOOKED's in-house magazine. "I love books as well," she says, "I love my job – it's the only prerequisite I've got to pour everything I have into doing something."

That approach is transferred to why she chose the Nokia N76. "The 26MB built-in memory can cope with my demands – especially, photos, radio and MP3 formats – a necessity when you're running a music magazine." But that's not all. "I can pretend it's a robot as well. I like robots."

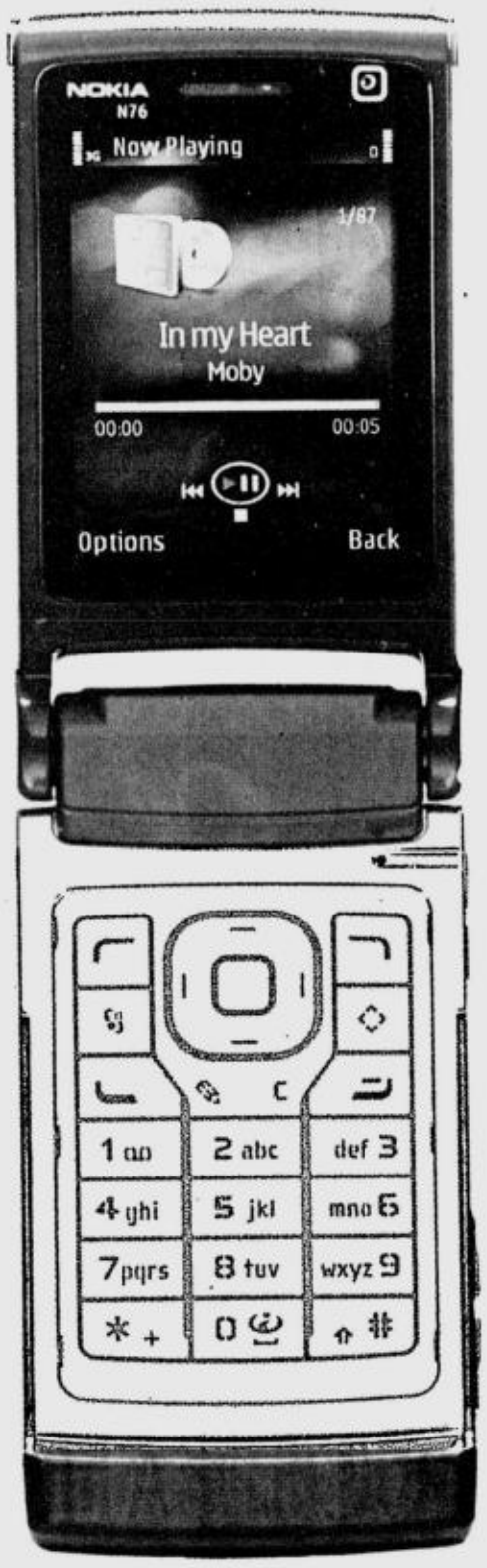
Kate Torralba
Creative Force

Fashion designer/entrepreneur **Kate Torralba** describes herself as being "creative, multifaceted and expressive." Although you'd expect no different answer from someone in her field, Kate applies a certain daring that's hard not to find unique. "I'm not afraid to be different and love to inject a distinctive element in whatever I do," she says. "My style is always fun, feminine - always with a bit of quirk." For Kate, it's her passion to set herself apart and be honest creatively, which influences her decisions – whether it's a pattern for a new dress or her technology. Describing having a mobile phone as "very essential", she says that the Nokia N76 slips perfectly into her creative outlook and creed as it does into her handbags.

The Nokia N76 is at the forefront of mobile technology and design innovation because of one reason – passion. The Nseries - especially its latest model, the Nokia N76 - was produced with the same passion the individuals above apply in their own fields.

The style and substance of their personalities make for a perfect combination.

www.nokia.com.ph/n76



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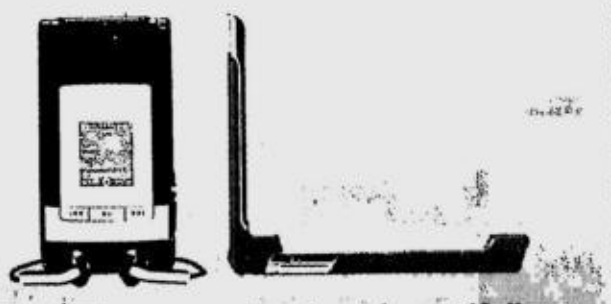

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Nokia N76. The computer done beautifully.

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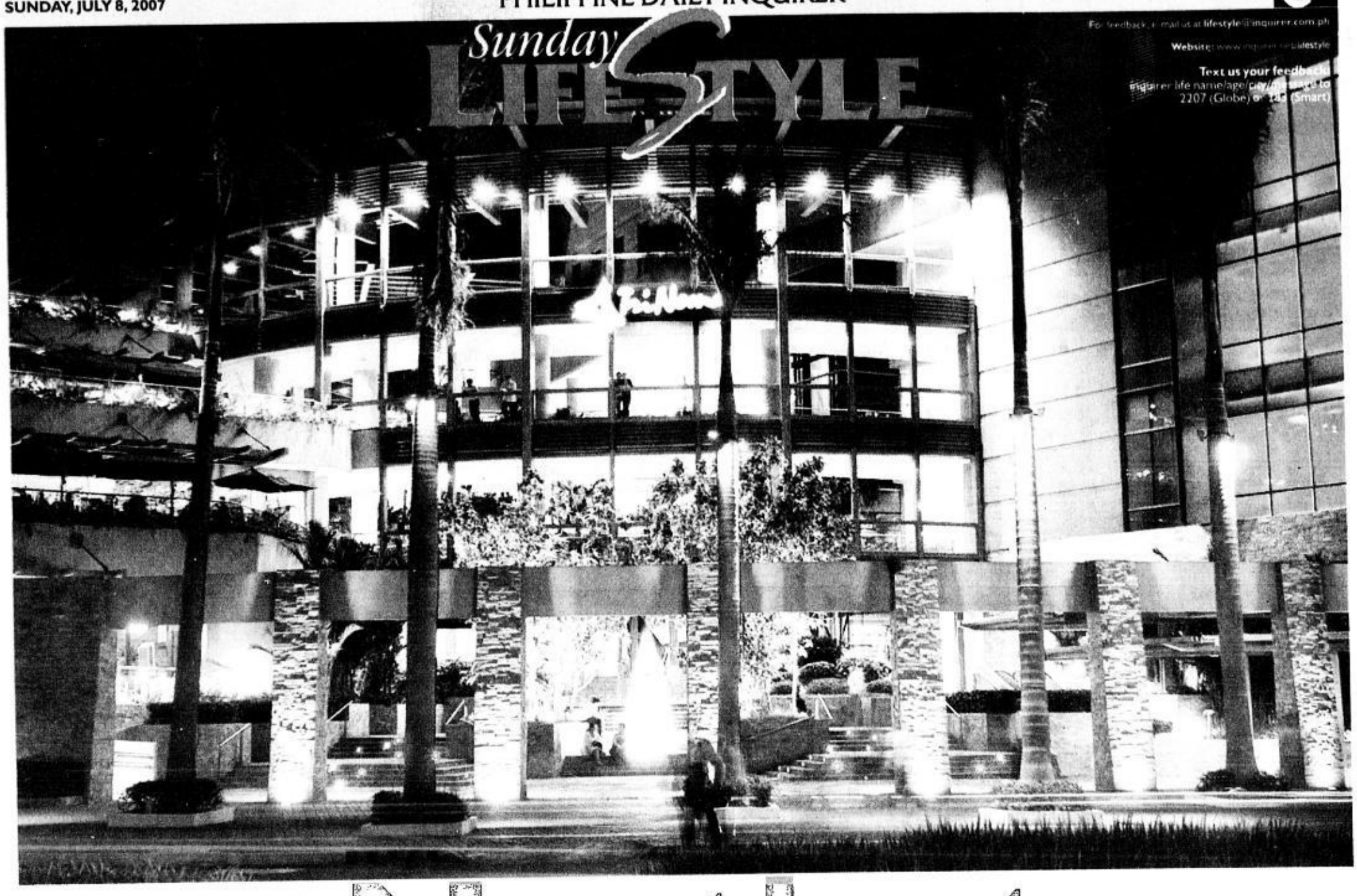
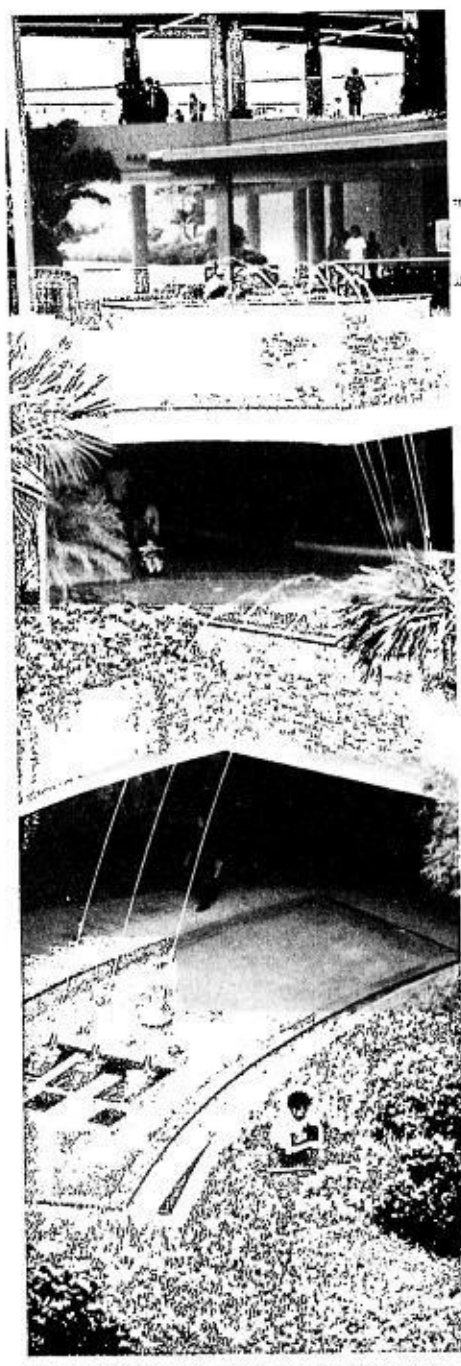


North star

TriNoma is the new shopping address north of Manila



THE PLAYFUL and creative use of water is seen in landscaped areas throughout the mall.

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan and Romy Homillada

PICTURE COUNTLESS VISITORS strolling beneath skylights, amid trees and plants, past fountains and pools. You'd probably think the place was some billionaire's fabulous mansion-turned-museum.

Actually, it is TriNoma (Triangle in Northern Metro Manila), located at the corner of North Avenue, Mindanao Avenue and Edsa, Quezon City. The place's elegance, drama and attention to detail signify how malling has been redefined.

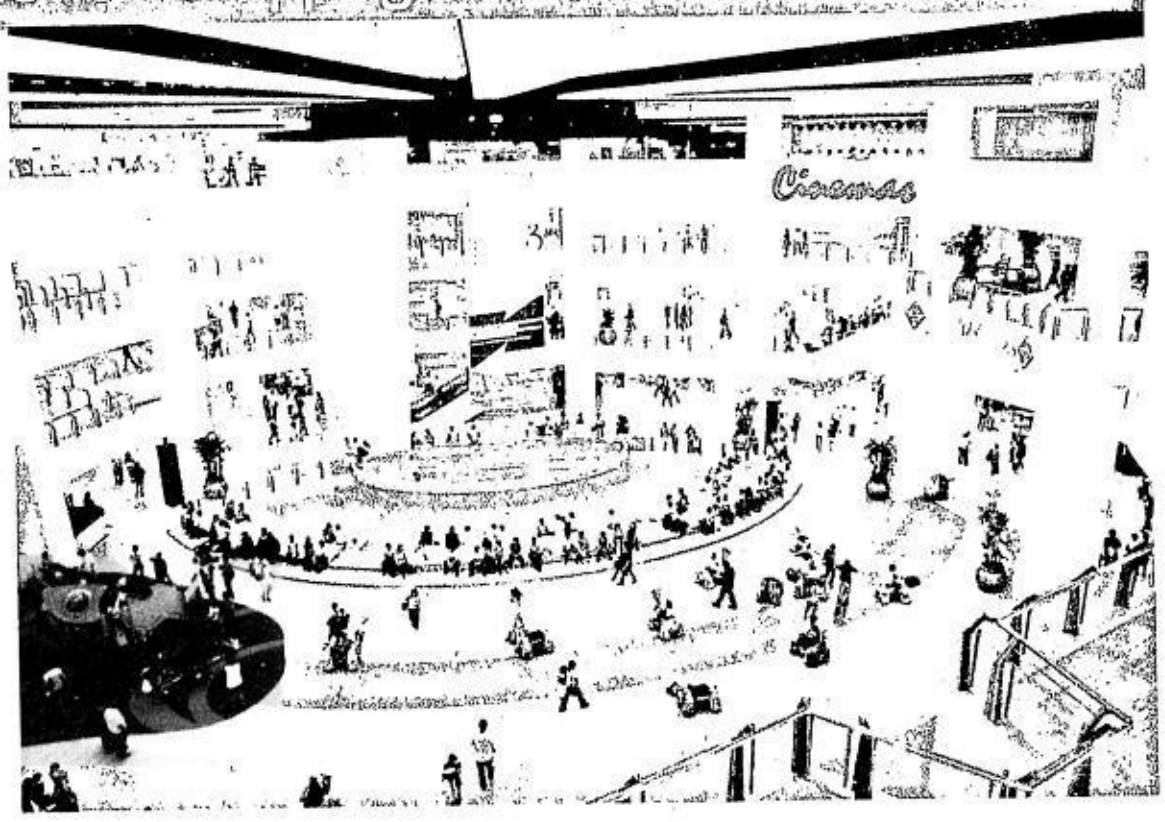
What was once a mundane chore will now be an experience. The 13-hectare shopping, dining and entertainment complex will surely become a major destination.

A project of the Ayala Malls, the P3.5-billion TriNoma was designed by Callison, the same group of world-renowned architects behind Greenbelt. Based on the conceptual design, the TriNoma architecture is the story of a journey.

"It is a journey inspired by the daily adventures of every person walking through TriNoma's doors. Its architectural design is a fusion of established and modern concepts, making it an exciting destination any day of the week," says Javier Hernandez, general manager.

Leisure environment

Ayala Malls creates a leisure environment that revolves around a park—plenty of greenery and open space, where people can unwind after work or relax with families and friends.



THE Activity Center, an exhibit and event venue, serves as a community hub where people can just linger and enjoy different kinds of activities and performances.

Starting off with the mall's main façade along North Avenue, TriNoma's striking entryway gives a glimpse into the unique architecture visible throughout the mall. Highlighting the entrance is a "gravity-defying waterfall" that rhythmically leaps from the first level upward. The playful and creative use of water is seen in the landscaped areas throughout the mall.

The Activity Center, an exhibit and event venue, serves as a community hub where people can just linger and enjoy different kinds of activities and performances. Its spherical shape, viewed from all levels of the mall, is complemented by the unique ray design of its dome. The Activity Center covers 1,190 square meters and is equipped with a built-in stage as well as sound and light systems.

"The Activity Center's design exudes energy and will be the heart of events that will truly enthrall the audience," Hernandez says.

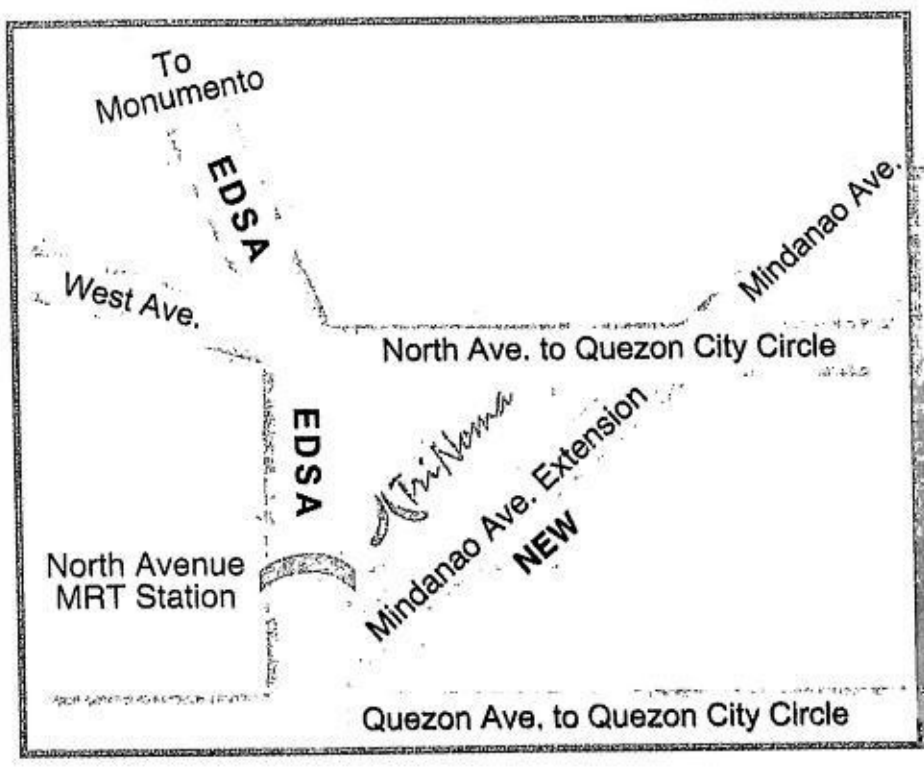
The mall caters to both the high-end shoppers (SSI and other top brands are well represented) and the mass market, especially those riding the Mass Railway Transit Line-3 since TriNoma is the last stop.

The new mall will also provide major inter-modal transport hub for almost all types of public transport. It has parking for 3,500 vehicles.

Retail entertainment

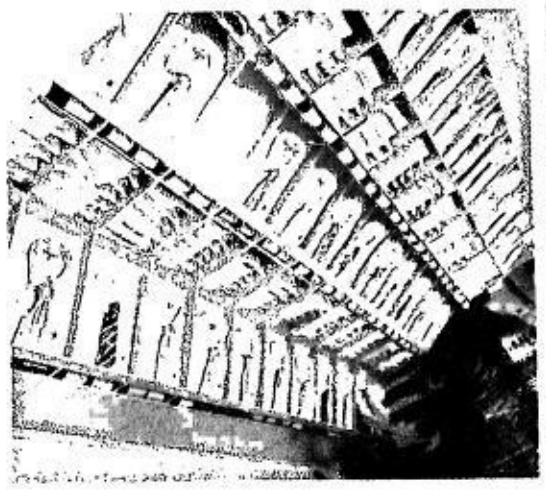
Exploring the different levels of the mall will take you to the various zones of TriNoma, which houses 597 tenants. If your motto is "Shop till you drop," prepare to do just that.

NORTH/ G3



Ayala Malls chairman Fuji Ibrahim Chan; president of TriNoma, Cecilia Dizon; VP for finance of Ayala Malls Group, Javier Hernandez; general manager of TriNoma, Noreen Lorenzana; VP and deputy group head of Ayala Malls, Mario Alandoni; deputy general manager of TriNoma, Marah Vidurya; marketing supervisor of TriNoma, Tess Palma; VP for business development and support services of Ayala Malls; and Norie Ubaldo, operations officer

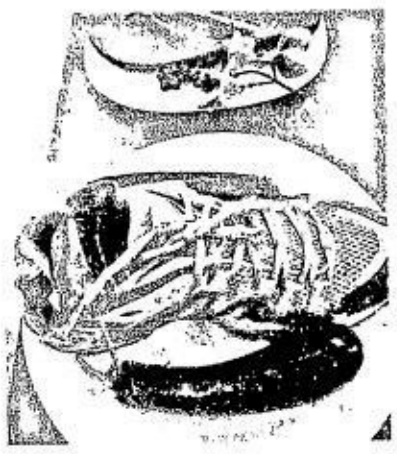
TEEN ZONE, an entire strip of teen-friendly brands, is distinguished by multicolor overhead lighting.



BUSINESS apparel for men and women at GII

Mall of surprises

TriNoma has some 600 retail shops to cater to a wide variety of tastes and interests



Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

THERE'S SOMETHING VERY daunting, if somewhat stimulating, about navigating a massive new mall. There's that sense of triumph in unearthing new finds, whether it's a new store or even just an elusive piece of item.

But there are some who make purposeful trips to the mall, unimpressed by the enormity, the labyrinthine alleys, the general bustle that excites the rest of us shopaholics and mallrats. These are shoppers who know what they want, make the purchase and are out of there in no time.

Or, these are also those who may linger in the mall, but only in the general area of their interest.

At first glance, TriNoma, Ayala Malls' first shopping destination in the Northern Manila, is just another retail center—never mind that it boasts of an indoor park for al fresco dining on two levels that's a first on this side of the city.

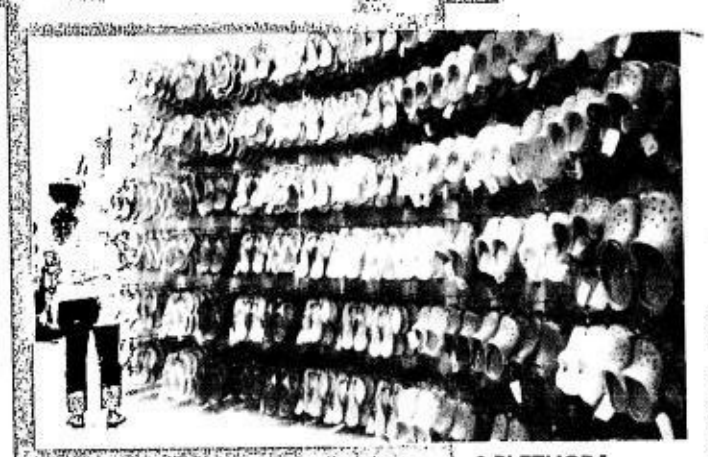
A walk-through, however, leads you to discover what sets this mall apart. It's vast yet at the same time also intimate; it gives the vibe of a mall in, say, Hong Kong's Central district.

Then, of course, there's the zoning, a major planning factor that was given consideration, says deputy general manager Carmelo Jalandoni.

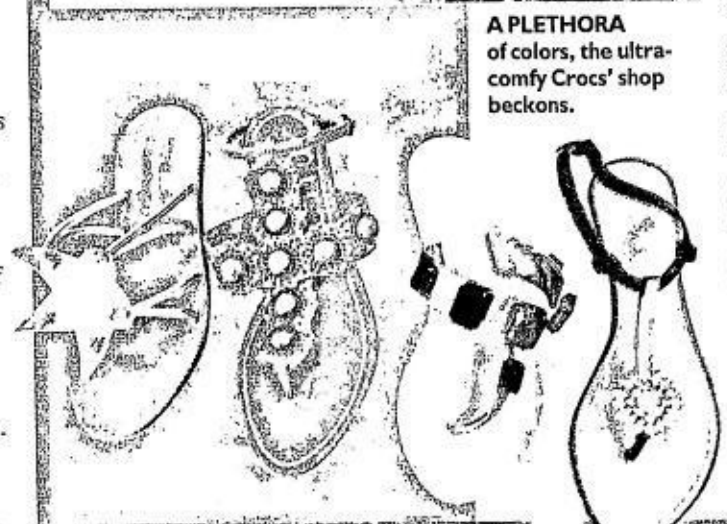
Side by side on the ground level are the flagship stores of popular local fashion brands: Bench, Kamiseta, Bayo, Kashieca, Penshoppe, Plains & Prints. Grouped further down are affordable imported labels like Guess, Levi's and Giordano. Then there's the new Crossings Department Store, which features the collections of young Filipino designers and some popular brands from Australia, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia.

Also on the first level are known brands for corporate wear: Ensembles, Tango, Memo, Merger, and the Malaysian shoe brand VNC, with a new line of pretty and colorful footwear.

Directly above, up the escalator, are foreign corporate wear brands, including Theme apparel and shoes by Charles & Keith, Aldo, Dumond and Pedro.



A PLETHORA of colors, the ultra-comfy Crocs' shop beckons.



TriNoma's is the Brazilian leather goods brand Dumond's first store in the country, and it sells sexy heels and bags that retail from P2,000-P9,000.

Meanwhile, the Singaporean brand Pedro, also a newcomer here, sells men's casual loafers to natty brogues for P5,000 and below.

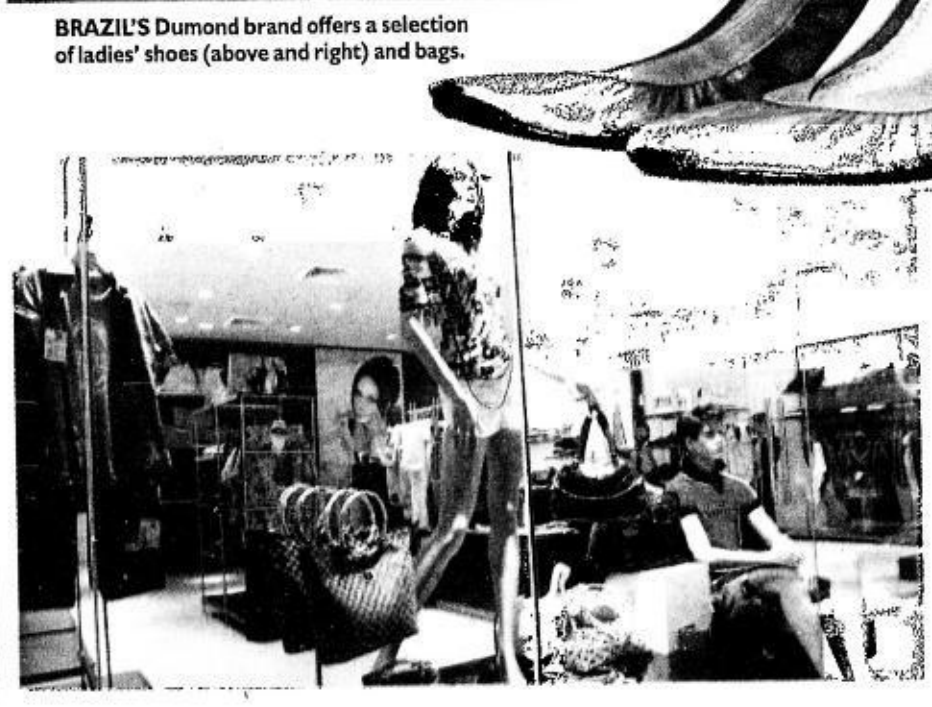
Adjacent to the corporate-wear brands are the sporty-casual store like the Adidas flagship, where the new service called Mi Adidas, or custom-made athletic footwear, is offered. While this vast space already offers a good range of the brand's products, including Stella McCartney and Adidas Originals, we were told a separate Adidas Originals would also open next door.

Shirts and shirts

Nearby is T-box, the vacuum-packed T-shirt brand from Turkey. Also around is the T-shirt store with novelty prints called David & Goliath, old-timer Benetton, and an interesting

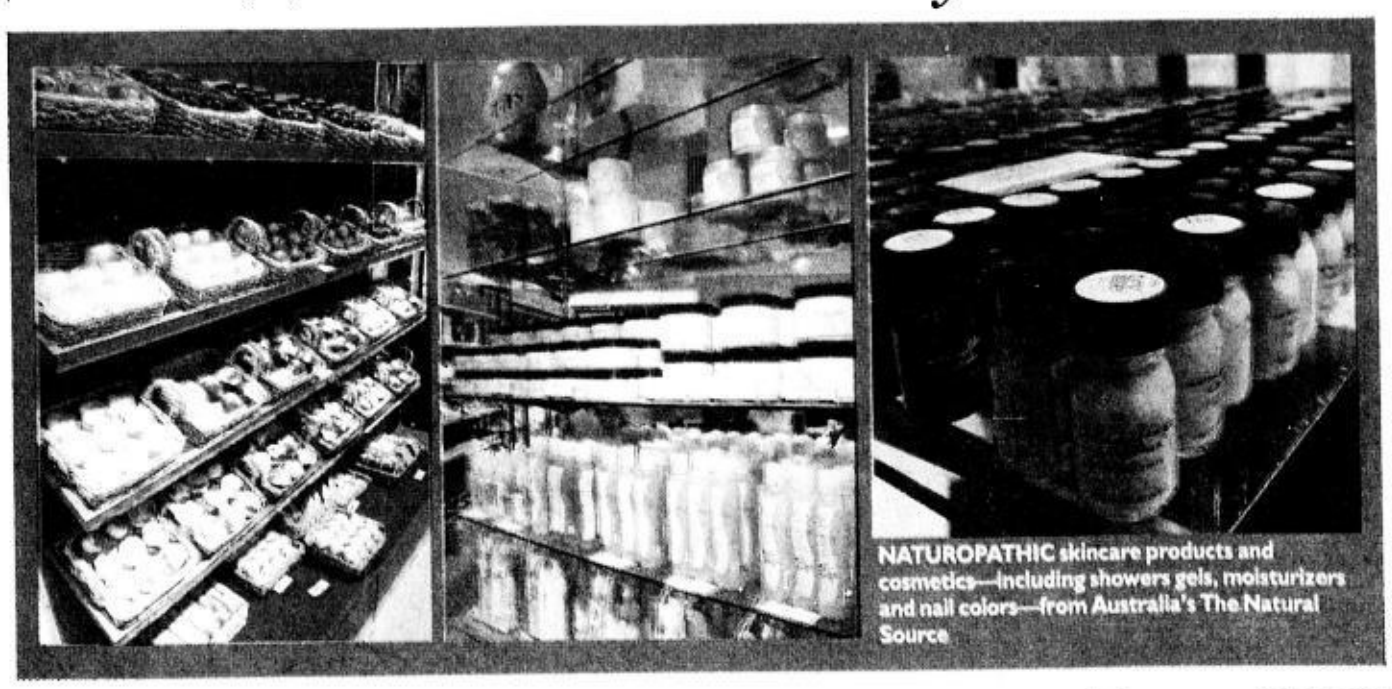
FOR SHOE CONNOISSEURS. Res Toe Run is a unique concept store selling cult shoe brands, where the merchandise is displayed à la buffet—of the footwear kind.

STYLISH wingtips, brogues and casual loafers at reasonable prices from Pedro



BRAZIL'S Dumond brand offers a selection of ladies' shoes (above and right) and bags.

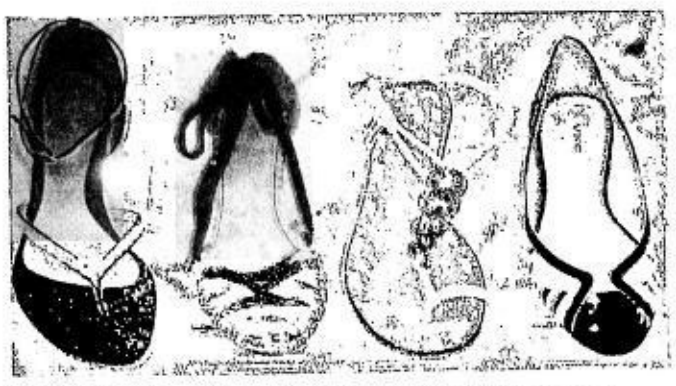
SISLEY, the French-born street-casual wear



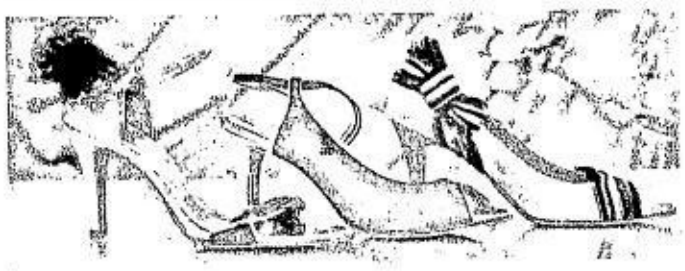
NATUROPATHIC skincare products and cosmetics—including showers gels, moisturizers and nail colors—from Australia's The Natural Source

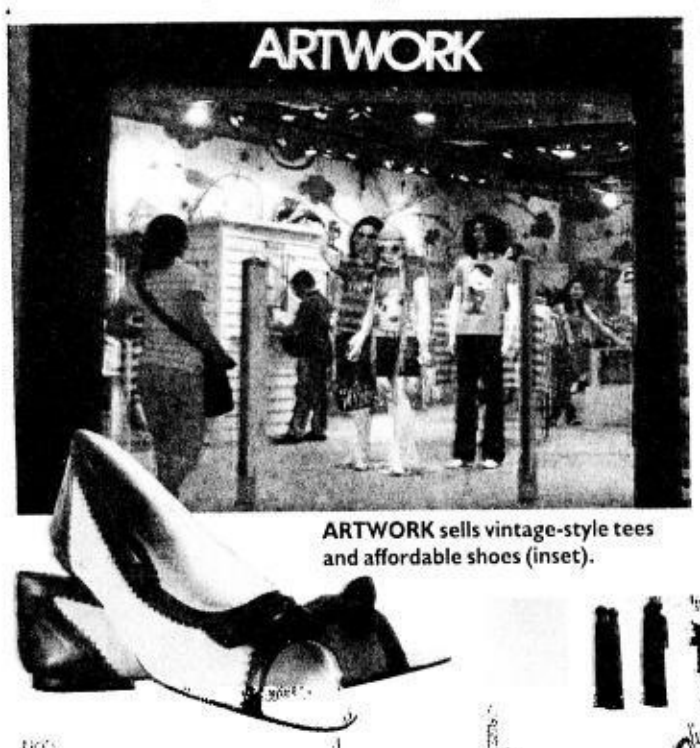
STREET casuals from United Colors of Benetton

ISTANBUL'S vacuum-packed T-shirts, T-box



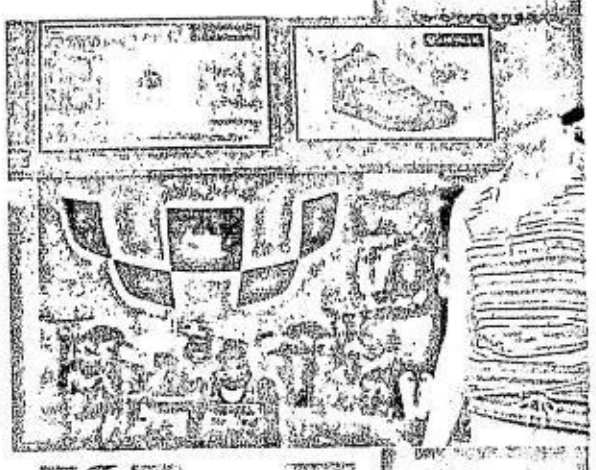
FROM FLATS (above) to heels (below), VNC of Malaysia is sure to satiate the desires of shoe-loving Filipinas.

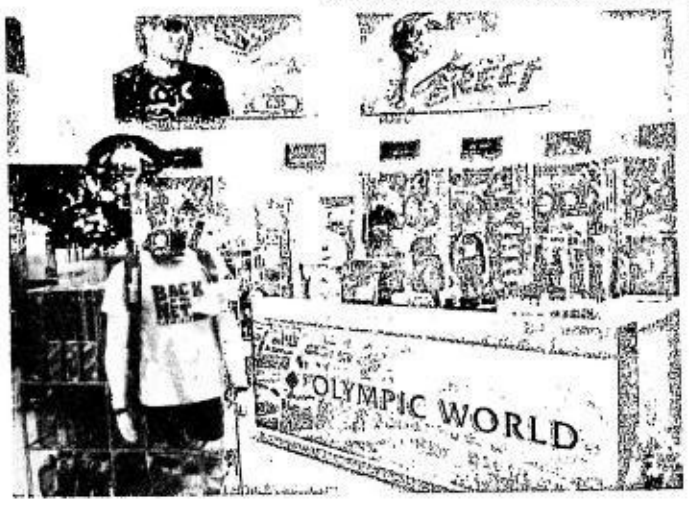




ARTWORK sells vintage-style tees and affordable shoes (inset).

ADIDAS in TriNoma is first in the country to offer the custom-made Mi Adidas service, where customers get fitted by stepping on a pad (left) linked to a computer.

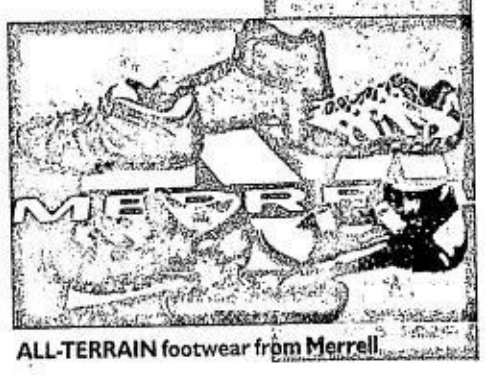




OLYMPIC World redefines interactive shopping by including in-store videogame matches projected on a giant video wall. It sells some 200 athletic brands covering apparel, footwear and gadgets.

CROSSINGS Department Store's special selection of casual and party wear (left) and accessories (above) from local and regional designers

DAVID & Goliath statement shirts



ALL-TERRAIN footwear from Merrell

new concept store called Res Toe Run, which sells cult footwear brands like Tsubo and Sanuk, and the build-your-own Tagger bag brand.

Serious athletes can find their favored stores on another side. There's Merrell, Stoked, Nike Woman, Badminton Club, GForce, Mizuno. Crocs' colorful display draws in a steady crowd here.

But for a one-stop shop athletic wear and gadgets shopping, head up to the fourth level, where Olympic World gives new meaning to interactive retail. It's hard to miss this colossal store with a 30 ft x 10 ft video wall and over 200 brands in merchandise. Soon it will host videogame matches within the store, the games projected on its video wall.

On a wing of the second level is the so-called Teen Zone, where labels popular among the young and trendy crowd are grouped alongside each other. This area is interesting as it is adjacent to the food court and fast-food joints—the usual haunt of the young market segment.

A Starbucks, in fact, is set to open in this very area. The usual suspects like People R People, Naf Naf, Human, The Shoe Salon, Converse, the first Skechers concept store, the vintage-style shoe and tee store Artwork, the Folded & Hung-owned Jellybean are all on this side. Pop Cult, a collection of mini boutiques for trendy apparel and accessories, will also open here.

A trip to the third level leads to the so-called "SSI Lane," or where the imported brands of Stores Specialist Inc. will be located (some won't open until September): Kenneth Cole, Nine West, Lacoste, Marks & Spencer, Zara, Debenhams, among others. Then, of course, there's Topshop and Topman, Dorothy Perkins, Esprit, Sisley, and the cult bag Crumper. The cheap-and-chic footwear brand Schu also opens its biggest shop yet here. On this level also is The Natural Source, an Australian shop selling naturopathic cosmetics and skincare products.

TriNoma has nearly 600 retail and dining spaces on six floors. Shopaholic or not, surely anyone can appreciate what good zoning alone in a place like this can do.

North star

From page G1

Hundreds of specialty and lifestyle shops fill the charming mall.

The Teen and Sports Zones have a very young, hip and active feel, complemented by graffiti art and pockets of gathering spaces where the young people can meet up and hang out.

On the other hand, the area for imported brands has a more classic, elegant finish, exuding global diversity and comfortable style. Gadget buffs and techies have their very own IT Zone, a sleek hub for the latest in software and technology.

The Home Zone, with its various interior design, furniture and home accessory stores, appeals to every person's desire to create a personal space or a "good nest" for the family.

The design is inviting and welcoming, characteristics that people want for their own homes.

The Wellness Zone is spa-inspired, distinguished by soft hues and finishing.

In contrast, the Kids Zone is a burst of color, awakening the senses of the young ones and inspiring them to imagine, create and play.

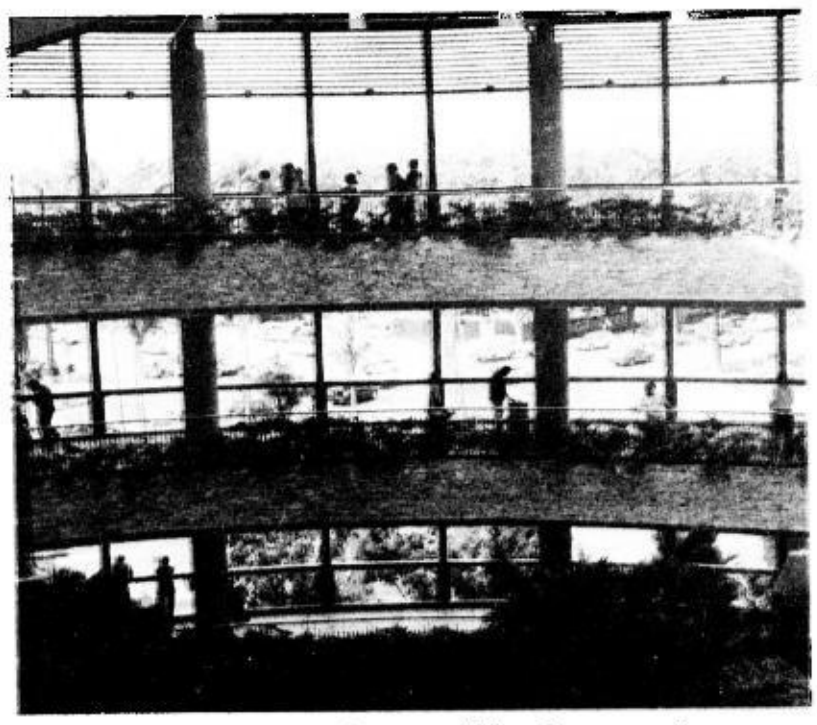
Flagship stores

TriNoma is so spacious retailers like Bench, Penshoppe, Folded and Hung, Kamiseta, Bayo, Oxygen, Adidas and Time Zone have opened their flagship stores there.

People are People, Shoe Salon, Toys R Us, Powerbooks, Handyman, Avant, Galleria Quattrocentro, Dimensione, Hobbes and Landes, Healthy Options, Fitness First Platinum and The Spa offer their particular brand of services and goods.

Other popular and specialty stores by local and international brands, as well as cinemas, cafes and amusement centers can also be found at TriNoma.

A vast array of restaurants and fast-food outlets are scattered throughout TriNoma's six levels, satisfying every palate and budget. These include La Maison, Café Cabalen, Mangan, Café Breton, Crustasia, Recipes, Zong, Food Choices, Krispy Kreme, and Café Mary Grace.



AYALA Malls creates a leisure environment with lots of greenery and open space.

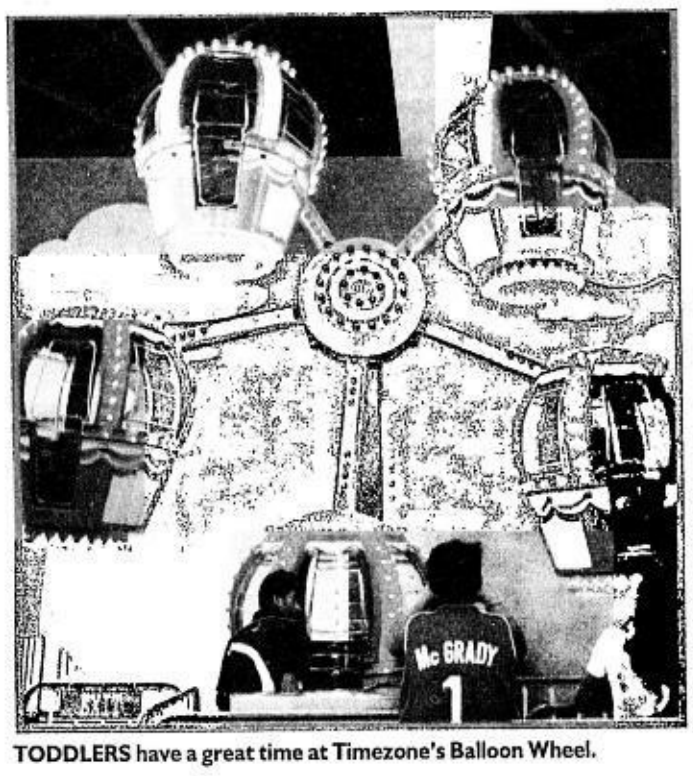
The mall also brings together two retail giants: Crossings and Landmark. Crossings has opted to focus on fashion and home here. Landmark will serve as the supermarket and department store along the Edsa section of TriNoma.

At the topmost level of TriNoma is a design innovation, the TriNoma Park. It is a two-level park spanning a one-hectare area. The lower park level, with its fine dining restaurants, has a more subdued and romantic atmosphere perfect for dates. The upper level, on the other hand, has a more active feel, suitable for night-outs with friends. It also has an outdoor stage for intimate shows and performances.

TriNoma will have its grand launch in October yet but already the crowds have come.

TriNoma fully integrates the relaxing ambience of a park with the upbeat pace of an urban haven

Sprightly yet Zen-like



TODDLERS have a great time at Timezone's Balloon Wheel.

GYMBOREE offers art, music, yoga, fitness fun and leapfrog activities.

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Romy Homillada and Roger Carpio

ENTERTAINMENT IS A MAJOR PART of retailing. And if it's entertainment you're after, you'll find it within the 13-hectare TriNoma.

"Entertainment will definitely not consist of your usual mall shows. Think jazz quartet at TriNoma Park, live performances at the Activity Center or even just the relaxing sound of a waterfall and fountain," says Javier Hernandez, general manager.

TriNoma is buzzing day and night, offering fun at Timezone, movies in its seven cinemas, shows and concerts at the Activity Center and TriNoma Park.

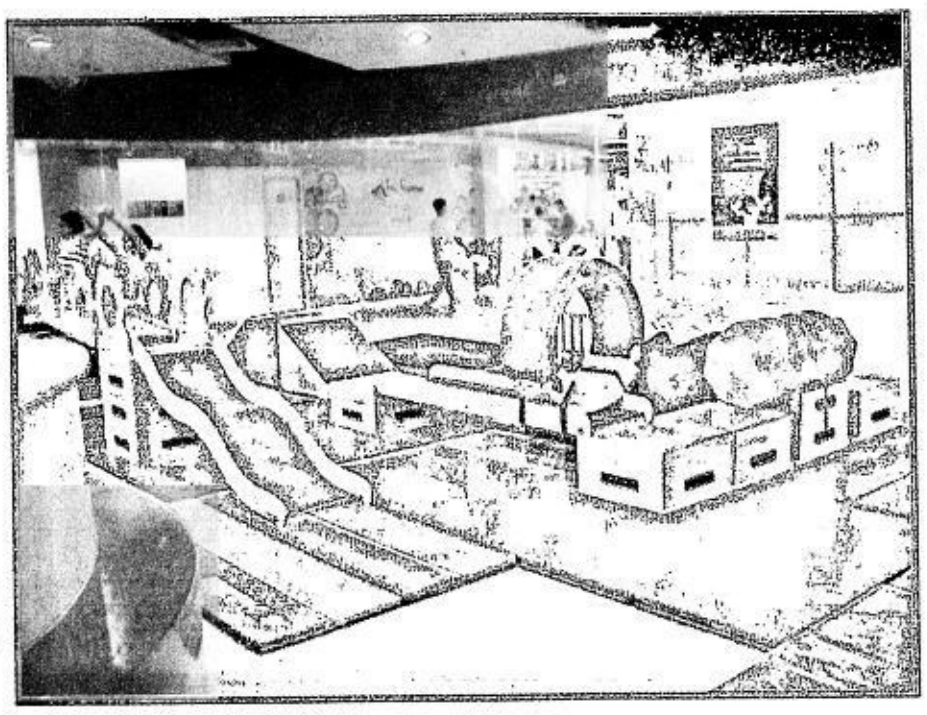
Kiddie fun centers

TriNoma's 1,500-sqm Timezone at Level 4, the biggest in the country, according to Hernandez, features unique interactive games and simulators.

Toddlers will surely enjoy the plane, train and balloon wheel rides. Teenagers and entire families, meanwhile, can sing their hearts out at Timezone's Music Zone.

Gymboree, a global leader in child development programs for children 0-5, offers fun activities that help kids develop social, physical and intellectual skills. Gymboree is at Level 3.

TOP: TRINOMA'S THX cinema, which features La-Z- Boy furniture, and six all-digital theaters make big-screen entertainment even bigger.
Above: Kids find it hard to resist the biggest Timezone in the Philippines.



State-of-the-art cinemas

The mall's seven cinemas at Level 4 have all-digital sound systems, plus luxurious seats with cup holders and carpeted aisles. Cinema 7, a 650-seater THX theater, features La-Z-Boy furniture.

"Aside from the theaters' state-of-the-art technology, they also have the same standard stadium seating as the cinemas in the United States," says Hernandez.

Also at Level 4, mallers can enjoy snacks at Café Breton, Taters, Mexicali, Starbucks, McDonald's, Smokey's and Holy Kettle Corn.

Every Sunday, a Mass is held at 10:15 a.m. at the cinema lobby.

Unique design

Crowning TriNoma's retail, dining and entertainment choices is its design, which fully integrates the Zen-like atmosphere of a park with the upbeat pace of an urban haven. At the topmost level is TriNoma Park, an environment custom-built for outdoor events and relaxation, with beautiful landscaping and unique water facilities.

The one-hectare area is divided into levels. The upper park level is perfect for chilling out with friends, while the lower level, accessible by a winding staircase fused with indoor waterfalls, is a more intimate area for dates or quiet quality time with the family.

Check out the water installations that rhythmically leap from the ground level all the way to the topmost level, which then flow into serene pools surrounding the park.

Northern delights

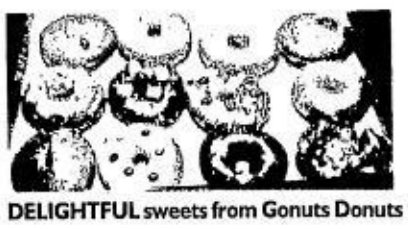
From page G6

9166395) for its famous Bibingka with Quesong Puti and Puto Bumbong served with free hot *salabat*.

For a more filling snack, you may want to have Seafood Pancit Luglog or Lumpiang Gulay. But, if hunger strikes you at noon, it's time to order Mangan's bestsellers: Mangan Binagoongan, Kare-kare Buntot ng Baka, Lengua Caldereta and Lengua Sisig.

Its Combo Platters have also become popular among big groups. The Inihaw Platter, for only P550, consists of grilled pork, chicken barbecue, *bangus* and eggplant with *dahon ng mustasa* and *halabos na hipon*.

If you feel you need a more stylish yet relaxing coffee break in a quaint and cozy ambiance, head straight to **Café Breton** (4th Level).



DELIGHTFUL sweets from Gonuts Donuts

It's such an excellent place to spend a few quiet hours at, drinking latte paired with French crepes and chatting with friends. The young and trendy be-and-be-seen crowd hangs out in this coffee shop.

Breton has been famous for its savory crepes. Among its mouth-watering treats that have become bestsellers are La Pinay, with mangoes, chocolate syrup and ice cream; Funtastyc, with

banana, Nutella, ice cream and Grand Marnier flambee; Vesuve (spicy), with garlic, chili, tomatoes, ham, cheese; and Poseidon, with smoked *tanigue*, dill sauce, sour cream and capers.

It also serves refreshing salads, gourmet sandwiches and burgers for a filling meal. It also has a long list of hot and cold coffee and espresso drinks.

SATISFY your hunger at the Food Choices.

AMADO Fores, son of culinary expert Margarita Fores, at the newly opened Cibo in TriNoma

More dining choices

If you can't decide what to eat for the day, simply walk through TriNoma's **Food Choices** (2nd Level) and check out its offerings. Before you know it, you'll be ordering a dish or two.

The new food court is sure to satisfy your hunger with a variety of cuisines—Japanese, Chinese, Italian and Filipino.

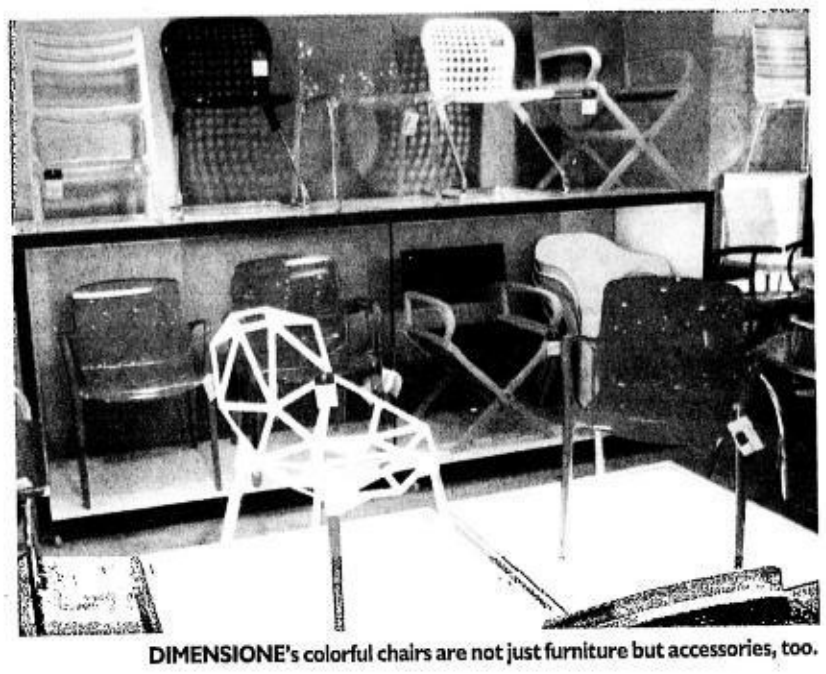
Chef d'Angelo offers a wide selection of pizza, pasta, chicken and salads. Just take one of its 18-inch pizzas (flavors include Italian Sausage and Mushroom, Supreme Pizza, Three-Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza and Hawaiian Pizza) and you'll surely be satisfied.

Pasta choices include Puttanesca, Pesto, Carbonara, Al fredo, Bolognese and Seafood.

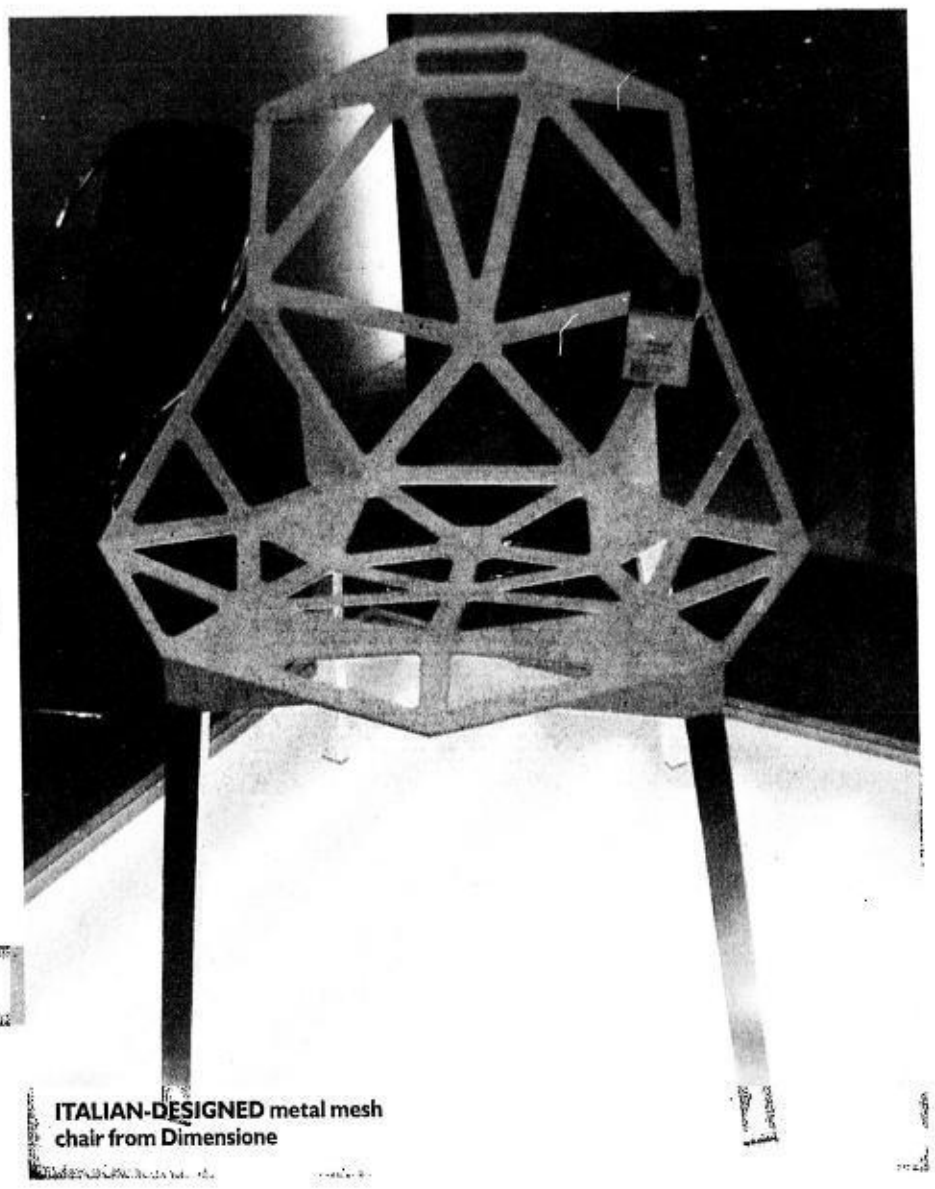
The bustle of the lunch and dinner crowd in Food Choices is set against an environment that is spacious, cool and clean.

Other exciting food outlets are **Slammers Burgers, Shawarma, Smairu, World of Chicken, Today's Japanese, Le Ching Tea House, Reyes Barbecue, Pinoy Sorbetes, Hungry Pac, Razon's, Gonuts Donuts, Cavana** and **Steak Sizzlers.**

Many establishments at the newly opened TriNoma have found ways to add innovative touches to their offerings and services



DIMENSIONE's colorful chairs are not just furniture but accessories, too.



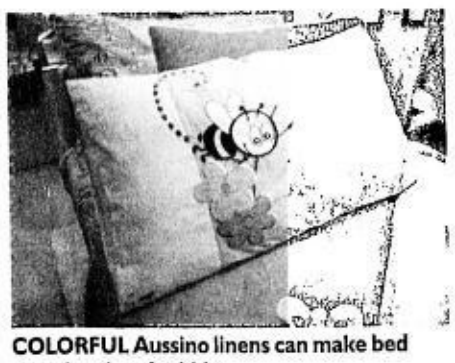
ITALIAN-DESIGNED metal mesh chair from Dimensione

Classic but fresh

ABUBOT has one-of-a-kind pieces from different Asian countries.

PINOY furniture at Abubot makes the most of wood's natural shape.

AVANT layout lets a customer watch an LCD TV by himself or herself.



COLORFUL Aussino linens can make bed time fun time for kids.

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Roger Carpio

CONSIDERING HOW ITS CLIENTELE is changing, Handyman Do It Best Home Center may have to change its name to Handyperson.

Stanley Co, assistant vice president for merchandising, and Lani Castañeda, marketing manager, say hardware stores like Handyman are no longer the exclusive domain of men.

Almost half of their customers, they say, are women. And, indeed, on a recent Monday afternoon, except for a whole family, the customers who entered Handyman's newest branch at Trinoma, the Ayala Malls group's latest development on North Avenue, Quezon City, were women.

This fact has not gone unnoticed by manufacturers, many of whom have started to make concessions to feminine sensibilities. Tools no longer come in drab grays, blacks or olive greens. A wide assortment of colors is now available that even the most fastidious fashionista will probably condescend every now and then to wield a power tool if it comes in buttercup yellow or lime green or poppy red.

And the fashionista who drives can also get a tire wrench in her favorite color—purple, green, red, blue.

A riot of brilliant hues will also draw the shopper to Aussino, a franchisee of a Singapore-based company, that sells bed and bath linens. The cheery designs and colors seem to guarantee sweet dreaming.

Charry Ceña, merchandising and marketing manager, says they can provide complementary pieces for all your bedrooms in whatever design you want.

At Dimensione, a chair is no longer just a chair. The way they are designed, they are now accessories as well. Coming in a variety of jelly colors, in metal mesh, resin or solid plastic, the chairs are not just functional household items but conversation pieces. There is even a pair that looks like space pods from science-fiction movies.

Alex Conopio, store manager, says the seats are called tadpole benches and they literally rock when you sit on them.

A chair, a pair of them to be exact, is also one of the current showpieces at Galleria Quattrocento, an art gallery. The wooden chairs, looking almost too delicate to be sat on, are the works of Benjie Reyes. He also has a few other wooden furniture pieces at the gallery.

Quattrocento, run by Imelda Uy and Denise Ang, currently carries in its inventory the works of celebrated artists Onib Olmedo, Alcuaz and Nina Saguil, among others, and promising young painters like Marcel Antonio, Ivan Acuña and Michelle Tan.

Asian collectibles

Next door, Abubot offers an array of Asian collectibles—Buddhas from Thailand, wooden doors and window frames with intricate carvings from Indonesia, figurines and idols from several other places. Heavy wooden furniture pieces by Filipino artisans follow the natural shape of the wood used for some very unusual configurations. Most of the items are practically one-of-a-kind.

If the pieces at Abubot are ethnic or traditional, high technology is on show at Avant, the second high-end outlet of Abenson Appliance Store. The layout is so clean and uncluttered that browsers can enjoy an LCD television unit to themselves without kibitzers. In one section, shoppers can get up close and personal with different models of cellular phones.

After the hoopla generated by the movie "The Transformers," things have settled down at Toys R Us. Except for a few Transformers merchandise still left, the store is relying on its wide assortment of toys to bring the crowds in and even awaken the kid still hidden in every adult.

But parents do have reason to check out the toy store. Rachelle P. Datinguinoo, marketing services officer, says they carry a wide selection of items for children's parties like balloons, hats, decorations, party favors, invitations, etc. The store also opens a registry to help prospective guests choose gifts on the wish list of the birthday boy or girl.

Over at PowerBooks, the boy wizard takes center stage again, with a whole section devoted to Harry Potter. Diane Montalbo, branch manager, says they have already received advance orders for the latest tale in the life of the trainee wizard. The bookstore makes the best use of its space, leaving plenty of room for browsers to move from section to section. Montalbo says a coffee shop will soon be added to the store's amenities.

Healthy lifestyles

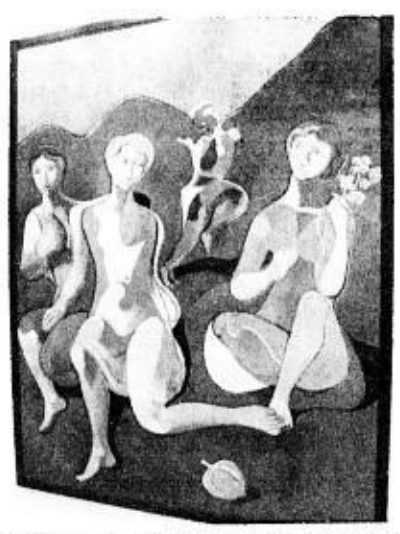
Though there is another branch nearby, Jeng Inton, store manager, says Healthy Options TriNoma is different because it is only the third outlet of the chain to offer frozen items and bulk sales. In addition, the branch, of course, has the usual items that has made Healthy Options a favorite among people who not only have adopted healthy diets but have even gone the whole hog, opting for healthy lifestyles.

Healthy Options offer not just organic food items but even organic toiletries such as soaps, shampoos, conditioners, etc., making it a one-stop destination for the health-conscious.

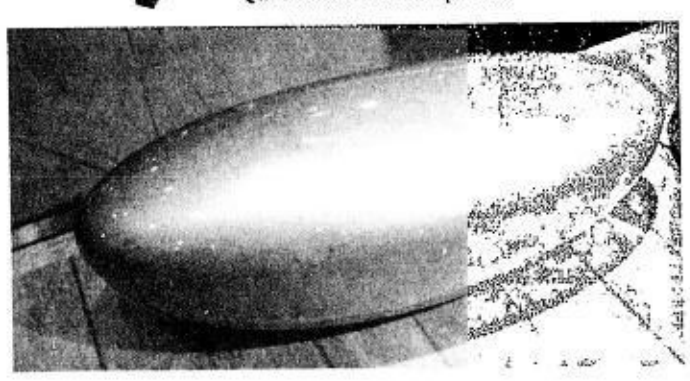
And, speaking of health, the Medical City, one of the better-known hospitals in the metro, has opened its eighth satellite clinic—the sixth in a mall—at Trinoma. Ralph Rivera, clinic manager, says the clinic is equipped for minor surgeries that will not require confinement. Open from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. every day, it accepts only outpatients. Cases that will require hospital stay are referred to the main hospital in Mandaluyong City.

Just across from the Medical City is the Asian Eye Institute, which has decided to go "malling" with its first branch. AEI's Anna Karina Peña-Gerochi says they want to be close to patients in the northern part of Metro Manila who find it inconvenient to go to the main office in Makati. They also want to attract a broader clientele, including those from the nearby provinces.

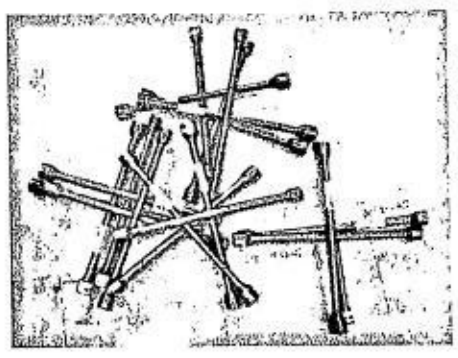
But the clinic does only diagnostics and examinations. Any operation still has to be done in the main clinic because, according to Dr. Edgar U. Leuenberger, "eye surgery requires a very high degree of sterility."



A CHAIR by Benjie Reyes (left) and a painting by Marcel Antonio are among Quattrocento's showpieces.



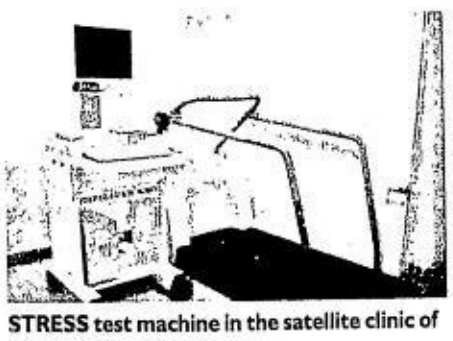
THE TADPOLE bench looks like a prop in a sci-fi movie.



TIRE wrenches in bright colors look like oversized jackstones.

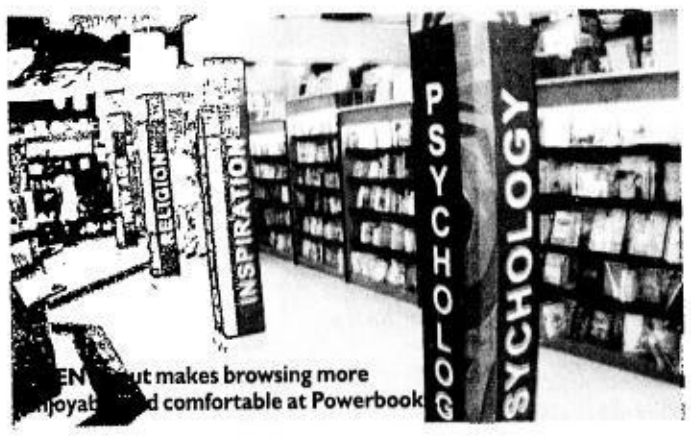
FOUR teenagers try on fuzzy rabbit's ears at Toys R Us.

THESE Healthy Options teas are meant to address specific problems.



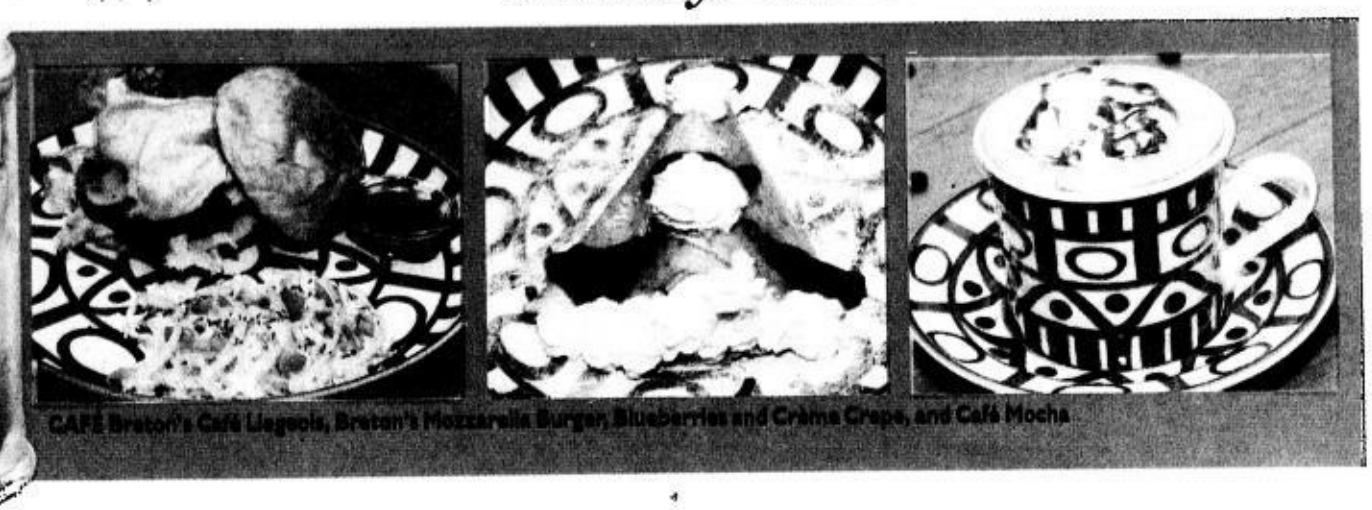
STRESS test machine in the satellite clinic of Medical City

DR. EDGAR U. Leuenberger and Anna Karina Peña-Gerochi with AEI Trinoma staff members



EN[illegible]ut makes browsing more [illegible]joyab[illegible]d comfortable at Powerbook

POWER tools in bright colors seem to indicate that women are turning into handypersons, too.



CAFÉ Breton's Café Liegeois, Breton's Mozzarella Burger, Blueberries and Crème Crepe, and Café Mocha

LA MAISON'S classy ambiance

Northern delights

DOVER Sole Fish with Bearnaise Sauce

From fine dining to fastfood, TriNoma has a tasty plateful of earthly delights

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Rudy Esperas

IT'S A TOTALLY NEW DINING EXPERIence in the new, ultra-modern and super-size TriNoma Mall. The sprawling mall is a gustatory haven catering to varied appetites.

Even if you're not into high fashion or trendy shopping, you can spend an enjoyable day at this family-oriented mall, having either a warm cup of cappuccino at Café Breton or a plate of pesto pasta at Cibo.

The mall's restaurants are ready to deliver culinary delights to satisfy all kinds of diners.

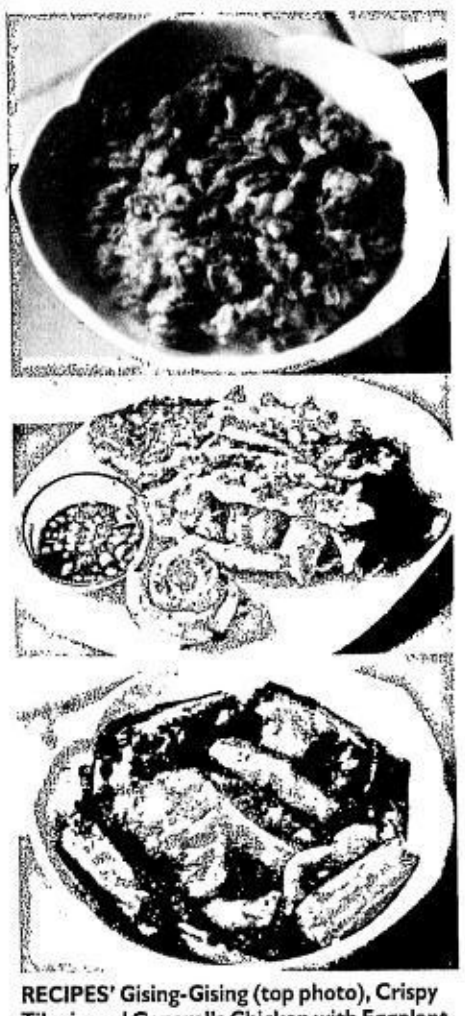
If you haven't heard of **La Maison** (2nd Level/tel. 9166351), it is because it is in Manila for the first time. Owners are husband-and-wife Ray Francis Alcoseba and Marissa Panganiban, who opened this casual French restaurant in JY Square Mall in Lahug, Cebu, in 2004.

Due to the overwhelming response of the Cebuanos to its tender selection of steaks and ribs and refreshing seafood, the couple opened another branch in Ayala Center-Cebu last August.

"It's been our goal to have a restaurant," says Marissa Alcoseba. "It's a blessing that my Filipino girl friend who is married to a Swedish chef helped us put up the place."

The chef, Robert Lilja, who became the Alcosebas' partner in the business in Cebu, has created a menu typical of French cuisine, which is a bit heavy on sauces. But they've also concocted a good selection of French-inspired dishes to suit the Filipino palate, such as Chef's Duck Liver Paté, Salmon and Mango Salad and Dover Sole Fish Fillet with creamy Bearnaise Sauce.

TriNoma's La Maison, French for "home," is set up like a cosmopolitan brasserie-style restaurant and café. It has a see-through kitchen that allows guests to view the grilling and flambéing of dishes. In spite of the modern ambiance, it has a homey feel as exemplified by its signature "umbrella" ceiling lamps, denim placemats, wooden tables and upholstered rattan chairs.



RECIPES' Gising-Gising (top photo), Crispy Tilapia and General's Chicken with Eggplant

Orange and blue dominate the entire room, providing a vibrant, festive air ideal for a fun family dining experience. La Maison also features a private dining room good for 30 people.

The menu includes a large selection of meat and seafood, broiled and grilled food, soups and salads. Its signature Barkada Ribs, which goes for only P650+ and can serve four to five people, has been a consistent crowd drawer.

"We cater to big groups and families," says Alcoseba. "Our *barkada* or family meal fare is specially portioned to promote sharing."

The whole slab of ribs is tender, almost falling off the bone, and is paired with honey chili sauce.

Other bestsellers: Braised Baby Back Ribs, Baked Oyster Royale, Herb-crusted Chicken, Chateaubriand and Pork Medallion, Quesadillas, Ocean Sea Bass.

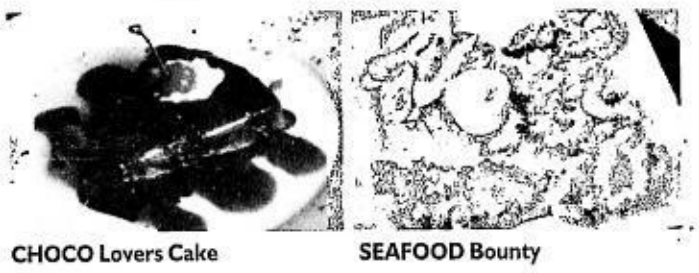
Steaks include Blue Cheese Steak, Fillet Mignon and Filler Oscar.

Offered only at the TriNoma branch is the Wagyu Blue Cheese Steak and Burger, which easily melts in your mouth.

"We're quite happy with the way things are going for us here," says Alcoseba, who runs the TriNoma branch with partner-friends Nick Torres, Ellen Pastrano, Mark Garcia and Bim Sebastian. Lilja is the food consultant.

Just to prove how popular they've suddenly become since they opened last May, the restaurant had to turn down about 200 guests during Father's Day. On weekends, it's a wait-to-be-seated arrangement.

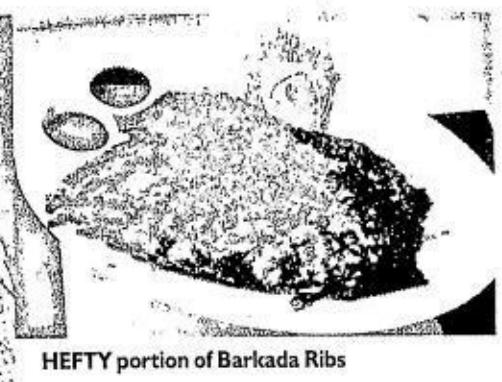
La Maison also has a good selection of wines from France, Chile, Australia and Italy.



CHOCO Lovers Cake

SEAFOOD Bounty

MARISSA Alcoseba



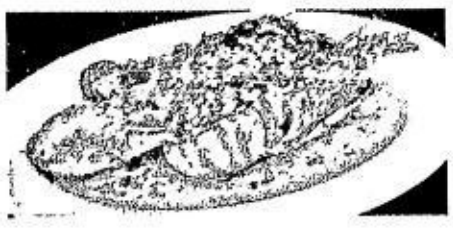
HEFTY portion of Barkada Ribs

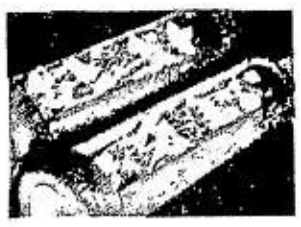
CHEF'S Duck Liver Paté

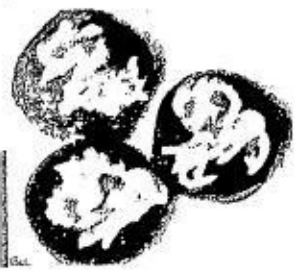
OYSTER Royale

CRÈME Brûlée

HERB-CRUSTED Chicken







CRUSTASIA'S Asian-inspired dishes: (clockwise from top) Singaporean Chili Crab, Buttered-Ginger Lobsters, Vietnamese Seafood Paella, Sticky Saigon Cake. (Above) The restaurant's vibrant interiors

Asian specialties

Asian-inspired restaurants, offering either authentic or fusion cuisine, also eat up a lot of good space in TriNoma.

Crustasia (2nd Level/tel. 9013607) serves only the freshest crabs and seafood blended with authentic Thai, Vietnamese and Singaporean cooking.

Those who are looking for exciting culinary experiences must check out Crustasia. Its Singaporean Chili Crab, which is cooked in chili paste, eggs and other hot spices, will definitely whet the appetite. But it's the Crab Maritess, crab sautéed in olive oil, garlic, chili and white wine, that makes for a most memorable meal.

The 75-seater restaurant specializes in crabs cooked every way imaginable, from steamed, deep-fried to baked and buttered. Check out the Vietnamese Butter-Ginger Crab, sautéed in butter, lots of garlic and ginger; and Lobster in Olive Oil and Garlic Pacific Lobster, sautéed in white wine, olive oil, garlic and chilies.

Crustasia also presents innovative rice dishes that people keep coming back for, such as the Vietnamese Seafood Paella, an Asian-style paella topped with shrimps, squid, fish, green mango strips and egg. It's served in bamboo so it's very inviting. There's also Pineapple Fried Rice with chicken, pineapple and raisins and served in fresh pineapple.

TriNoma is Crustasia's third branch after The Podium and Power Plant in Rockwell. It's run and operated by Raymund Magdaluyo, who's also part owner of Red Crab and Heaven 'N Eggs group of companies.

Recipes by Café Metro (2nd Level/tel. 9013681) also has a chockful of Asian specialties, highlighting Filipino favorites including Crispy Tilapia, Gising-Gising, Kare-Kare, Korean Beef Stew, Lechon Kawali with Kangkong and General's Chicken, chicken cooked deep-fried and served with eggplant.

Managed by Agustin de Guzman, Recipes encourages the lively art of dining with its casually sophisticated ambiance, simple cooking, friendly service and fair prices.

This Asian diner offers a breezy ambience as shown by its minimalist interior, with only white, beige and gray as dominant colors. And there's an explanation for this. The dynamic colors and flavors should only come from its food, which is basically the heart of the restaurant.

TriNoma Recipes is the fourth branch of this 7-year-old restaurant.

PEPPERONI pizza and Pomodoro pasta

BAKED Lasagna

ROAST Chicken with baked potato and fried rice

Oriental cooking has also found its course in **Zong** (2nd level/tel. 9013638).

If you're craving for freshly prepared dim sum and dumplings, simply say so to the friendly wait staff and they will serve you the best-tasting Ha Kao (steamed shrimp dumpling) or Xiao Long Pao (steamed pork soup dumpling).

Owned by Joshua Tiu, Zong is also known for its Hot Prawn Salad, Steamed Fish with Broccoli, Crispy Noodles with Mixed Seafood, Spicy Singapore Fish Fillet and Pan-fried Duck in ginger and garlic.

At first glance, you'd think Zong is a Japanese place with black roundish plates readily prepared on the table.

But the open kitchen tells you otherwise. Huge steamers for dim sum and big white bowls for hefty servings of soups can be seen.

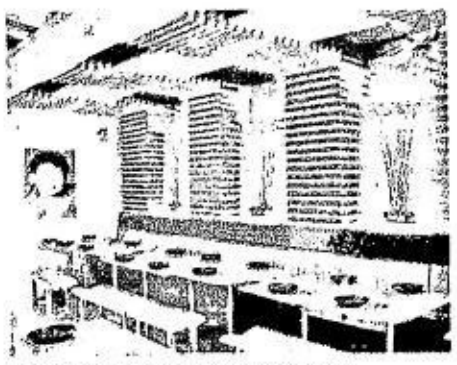
Zong also serves a good selection of wines from Chile and Australia, quite an exciting pair for your roast chicken and suckling pig. And, take note, all food at Zong is naturally flavored, meaning no monosodium glutamate (MSG).

Zong opens 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and 6-11 p.m.

A good break

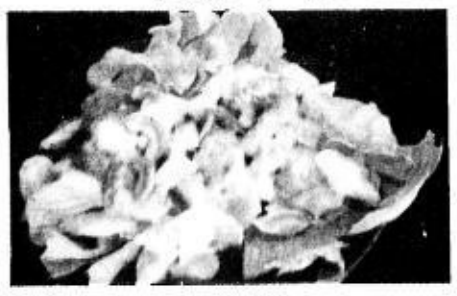
After a long stroll in the mall, you can have a quick break at **Mangan** (1st Level/tel.

NORTHERN/ G4



ZONG'S contemporary dining area

STEAMED Fish with Broccoli and Garlic (right) and Hot Prawn Salad



MANGAN'S Inihaw Platter (above), Kare-kare Buntot ng Baka (left) and Bibingka with Quesong Puti and Salted Egg

MANGAN'S homey atmosphere

CHEF d'Angelo's display counter at the Food Choices

ENTERTAINMENT

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: Inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

INSIDE

■ Robin Willliams at his most irreverent Only In H'wood /H2

■ Instructions for local media, top of the tabloids Rushes/H6

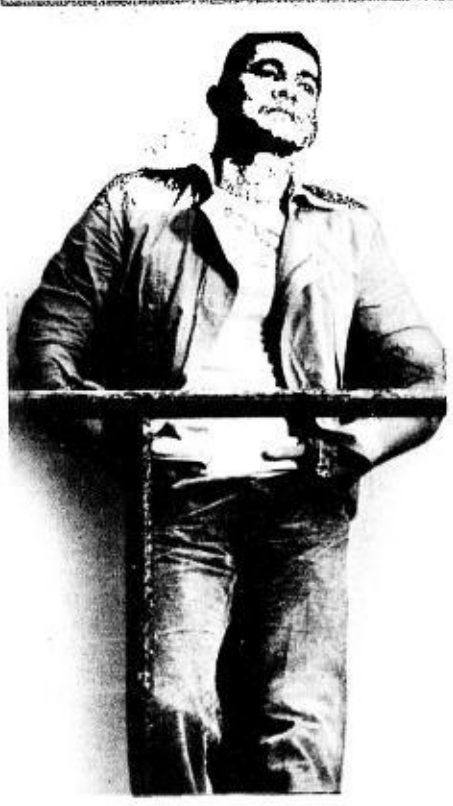
The many faces of a winner

CHEER FACTOR

WE'VE SEEN HER IN NEARLY every conceivable role. Cherrie Pie Picache has never disappointed. Early this week, she won Best Actress in South Africa's 28th Durban International Film Festival for her portrayal of a lesbian, L, rejected by her father in Dante Mendoza's "Kaleldo". This is her 12th acting award so far.

She has essayed the parts of (from far L) a hysterical sibling in Erik Matti's "Pasiyam"; a soft-hearted foster mom from the slums in "Foster Child," also by Mendoza; and a defiant second wife in Joel Lamangan's "Ako Legal Wife."

She's also played a desperate spinster (Jeffrey Jeturian's "Bridal Shower"), a nun having a crisis of faith (Laurice Guillen's "Santa Santita"), and a sex-crazed pimp (Mel Tionglo's "Twilight Dancers"). What other pleasant surprises are in store for her fans? *Marinel R. Cruz*



Gary still in the fast lane at 42

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

THE STUBBLE AND TOUSLED HAIR MAKE Gary Valenciano look younger than his 42 years. Even the casual tee and torn jeans fit him snugly, like he's ready to roam the malls all day.

The singer-songwriter-TV host is, in fact, in a restaurant at the newly opened Trinoma mall in Quezon City, holding a press conference to talk about his latest triumphs abroad and some exciting projects here, among them his "Pure Inspiration" concert tour.

A recent concert tour in medium-size venues in Washington, California and Canada gave him some insights into how fans take his music.

Gary gushes: "They were singing along from start to finish. I mean, it's not unusual for the crowd to do so with the ballads. But for them to know every single line of the fast songs, wow, that really got me."

Which were the most requested songs?

"'Growing Up,' 'Shout for Joy,' 'Sana Maulit Muli'... You know, *pudpod na pudpod na rito ang mga kantang yan*. I would have preferred not to sing them anymore abroad. But when you hear people say, 'It's my first time to watch you in concert, can you please sing this and that...' And when I sing them you see the joy in their faces, you know, suddenly it's like the songs sound new again... Some even think I was the original singer of 'I Will Be Here' which I actually covered in a past album."

Awit nominations

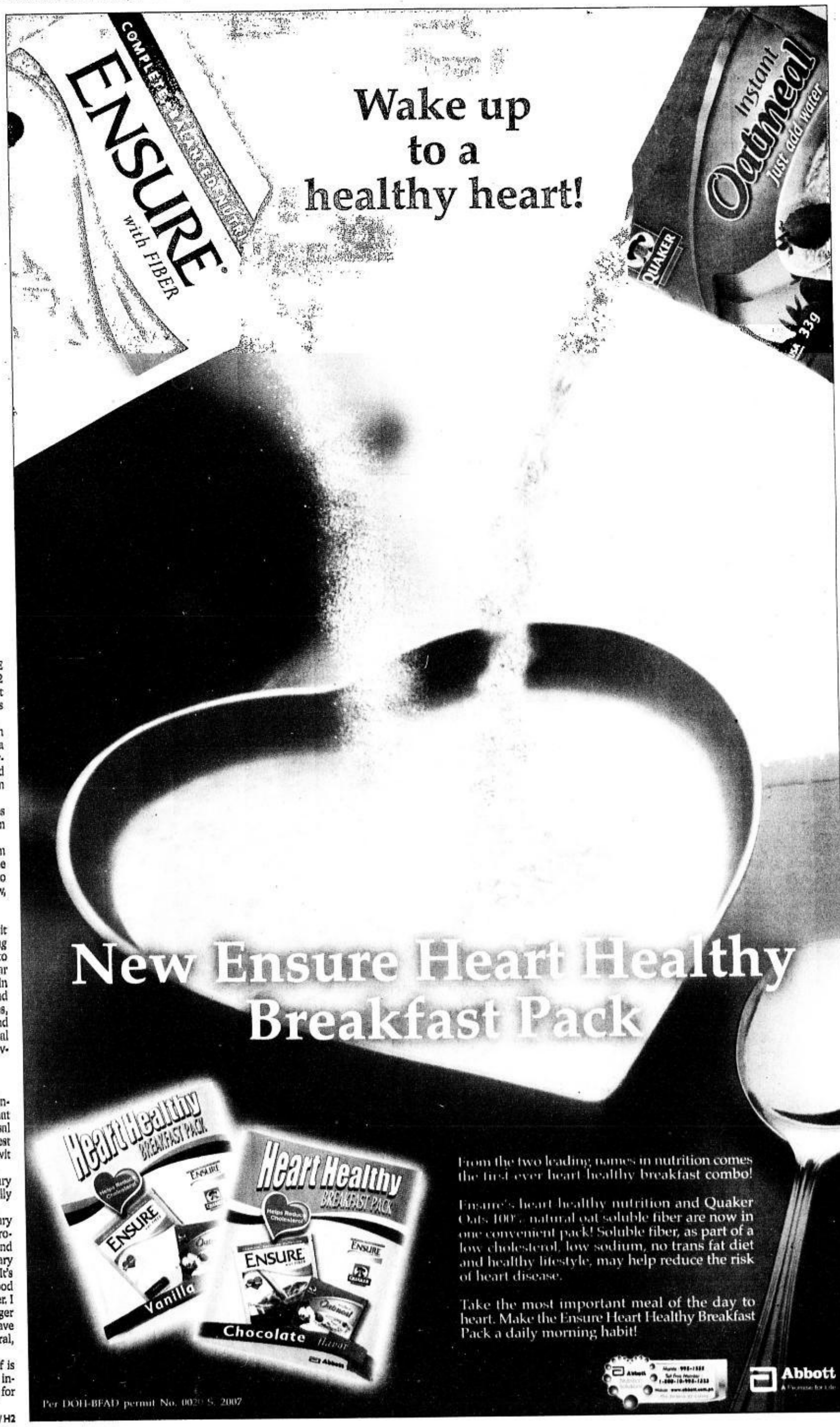
Speaking of albums, wife and manager Angeli Valenciano volunteers the information that the 2006 Gary V CD, "Relevant" (Universal Records), has just received the second biggest number of nominations in the forthcoming Awit Awards.

"It's one of my best-produced albums," Gary confirms. "The songs were so good, that I really looked forward to singing them."

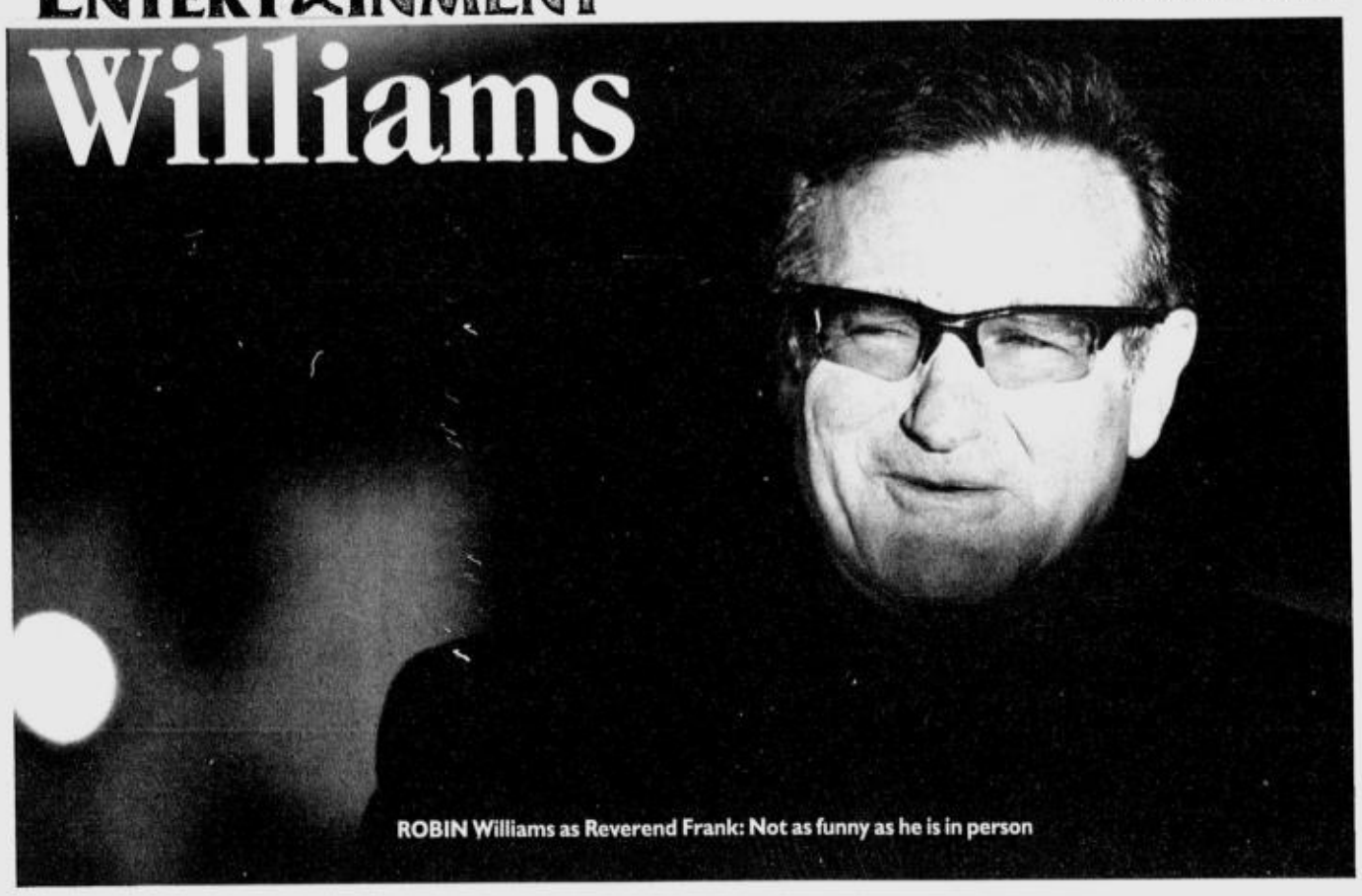
Another reason for excitement is that Gary the actor recently wrapped up a digital film project, "Gulong," which stars Barbara Perez and Robert Arevalo. His role was very short, Gary says. "I did it because the story was good. It's about two boys who always end up doing good things at their own expense. I play their father. I loved the role because I wasn't playing a singer or somebody in the music business. I didn't have to fix my hair. I was also acting in a very natural, minimal way."

The father of two grown-up boys himself is naturally glad that one of them, Paolo, is also into music—but of a different kind. "I'm happy for

GARY / H2



Ir-Reverend Williams



ROBIN Williams as Reverend Frank: Not as funny as he is in person

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—IF ONLY **ROBIN Williams'** recent films were as funny as he is in interviews.

The guy deserves a great movie that will really showcase his natural comic flair, unorthodox persona and energy. Or perhaps he should do solo stand-up comedies again—just place cameras in front of him and he will take care of the rest. Then, more people will be reminded, as they watch a DVD of these live shows, how hilarious he can really be.

Meantime, there's "License to Wed," which stars Robin as a pastor, Reverend Frank, who gives pre-nuptial counseling to **Mandy Moore** and **John Krasinski** (from the TV comedy, "The Office"). The film's marriage preparation story line inspired reporters to ask Robin about his failed first marriage and thriving second marriage to Fil-Am **Marsha Garces Williams.**

Robin also talked about his recent rehabilitation from alcoholism and referred several times to another movie, "Knocked Up," which is the funnier film. The resulting interview was Robin at his most irreverent.

You have been married a couple of times.

Yes, I'm a survivor. Divorce is something you don't wish upon anybody. But it exists. So maybe we should heed the advice that people should get to know each other a little bit more. Like, what are your skills? What are your connections besides sex? It's the same thing with "Knocked Up," where you also have the idea of someone who—rather than avoiding fatherhood—says, "Yeah, okay, I'll pursue marriage as something in which you can really get to know someone, both the good and the bad."

What was it like, working with Mandy Moore?

Everyone keeps asking about **Paris, Britney** and **Lindsay** and then you have someone like Mandy who's quietly doing great work. I am sure she has a great sex life but I didn't ask. I just don't see her playing bumper car with a Bentley. Mandy is just as good as John. She's very sweet. There's an innocence about her but at the same time you realize that she has a great kind of sexuality. **Pam Dawber** (his co-star in TV's "Mork & Mindy") had that. People kept asking, "So you and Pam…?" I said, no. There are no (paparazzi) shots of Mandy…

Showing her in her underwear…

I think she wears underwear. I'm pretty sure. She doesn't get out of a limousine in what could be called gynecological dismount (a reference to Britney Spears' infamous photograph showing her alighting from a car). Somebody should just take the scissors away from Britney and say, "Honey, either that (bald) or get two hairdressers."

MANDY Moore "has a great sense of sexuality," says Williams.

Any anecdotes when you were filming scenes with Mandy and John?

I had a very funny moment when I was doing a scene with Mandy and John. They were talking about sexual communication. John said something like, "She was going, I like it when you do this." John also said, "I bet you do." All of a sudden, I was looking at Mandy and realizing, even if I was 20 years younger, I'd still be too old for her (he is turning 56 this month). I got into a scene more than an actor should. Here I was with a collar on but going, "Yeah, pretty girl, who's your father?"

Do you think adultery can ever be justified?

Adultery can be justified? Having been divorced once, no. When someone says, "Dear Reverend Frank, is it okay if it's with an ugly girl?" No. "But she fell and somehow landed on my penis."

If you ask people who have been married once, "What was the cause of the divorce?" Um, was it maybe if your penis could testify at your trial, you could basically claim *nolo contendere*? "It wasn't me."

If you were a pastor, what kind would you be?

I would be like a really reformed rabbi at the Sushi Dicky Church.

What gets you through when times get tough?

Having a wife (Marsha) who's really understanding and tough. One of the classes I should have taken earlier is on listening. I think I'm getting better at that. The idea of paying attention and really being aware help a lot. And fighting fair which in this movie is about how you deal with all the nasty s--t that happens and say, "Okay, I don't like that." Then realize first of all that you can't change each other at the core but you can work out a peaceful understanding. Getting to know someone is a lifelong task and I'm learning that.

Rev. Frank puts this couple through many tests before he marries them. For you, what would be the hardest test? Perhaps no sex for three weeks?

At my age, I'd be like, what's new? What are we talking about? Shut up. No sex for three weeks. Fine. I got the watch. No sex teaches the idea of anticipation—in three weeks, will we have sex? You learn other ways of connecting with each other. Reverend Frank says people use sex as a conflict resolver. Just ask the monkeys. It really works.

Sex as a weapon?

It's one of the greatest (laughter). I never thought of it that way as a weapon but please, I surrendered to that (laughter). I'm a big fan. I came from there. It's a great negotiating tool. Guys will trade everything for sex, even the words, "I love you." I'm sorry that's cynical but some guys will go, "Sure, I love you—let's do this." At that point, even your penis is going, you lied, let's go. Sex is a powerful drive but okay, besides that, what else do you have? How much fun do you have together without that? It's like the story of "Knocked Up." You have fun and suddenly, it's time to grow up. For a lot of guys, growing up is a difficult thing.

What drives you to this day?

Get a laugh—you know, it's a drug. It works. I have given up everything else except coffee. I can't give up coffee because there's a Starbucks every five feet (laughter).

You mentioned "F—d Up"…

You mean "Knocked Up" (laughter.)

Yes, "Knocked Up."

Not "F---d Up." But that is the title in other countries (laughter). What's the difference?

Would a movie like this, "License to Wed," and its topic, marriage, have appealed to you perhaps 20 years ago?

Having been married, having had that marriage fall apart, and having a second marriage, this film would appeal to me only if it were funny. The same thing with "Knocked Up." It would appeal to me just as a comedy because when you watch it, you see a whole culture—all those stoner guys. I grew up with those people. I know a lot of them who are still that stoned at 45 or 50. The idea of them growing up or maybe making a commitment—there's a whole culture of people who will actually wonder what Paris Hilton had for dinner yesterday, versus learning what's going on in the world. To me, that is more disturbing than anything else.

I live in a city (San Francisco) where people are so terrified of gay marriage that they say, same-sex marriage. If married gays live in your neighborhood, it's only going to make the area look nicer. Instead of having two flamingos on the lawn, there are going to be other nicer things on the lawn. Maybe a sculpture. It might be that of a penis but it will be interesting (laughter).

What happened in your first marriage?

I fell in love and then I fell out of love. I started off and everything seemed wonderful. Then I realized, maybe I was too young, maybe I should have spent a little more time going, "Okay, what do I really want?" In that first marriage, I was in love but all of a sudden, fame hit—"Mork & Mindy" became a hit—and that put a lot of pressure on the marriage.

How are your kids?

You have dreams for your children and as they start to accomplish them, you go, "Wow." My son (Zachary, 24, from his marriage to Valerie Velardi) graduated from NYU (New York University). I don't have a college degree. Marsha doesn't have one. He was the first kid in either of our families to get a college degree. It was for linguistics. I said, "What are you going to do, open a poetry repair shop?" Now he's studying acting. Zelda (17) is acting in a movie in Chicago. When she did "House of D," she was really good. Cody (15) is home. He's a really good writer. I was like, "Wow, where did that come from?"

How about dreams for your own self?

After rehab, I came back on [track] and thought, "There's something wonderful about being with family and friends, having stimulating conversation versus being hammered in a bar." My dreams are rekindled when I put my mind back on. All of a sudden, I want to travel more and learn a language.

What's next?

I'm doing "Old Dogs" next with John Travolta. Why not? He did "Wild Hogs" and now he's doing "Old Dogs." We're trying to go through all the species (laughter).

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

Eva Longoria, Tony Parker wed

PARIS—"DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES" DIVA Eva Longoria married NBA superstar Tony Parker in Paris yesterday (Manila time, 1 this morning) in the celebrity wedding of the year, leading the worldwide rush to catch the mystique of the 777 date.

Longoria, 32, and Parker, 25, who got engaged in November, were to be wed at the Saint-Germain l'Auxerrois church in central Paris before stretch limos and helicopters take them and their friends to Vaux-le-Vicomte, a 17th-century chateau just outside the capital.

A civil ceremony with Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoe officiating was to take place earlier at the municipal offices in the center of the capital, a source said.

Longoria and Parker have kept their guest list secret, but media reports suggested that it would include actors Michael Douglas, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Jamie Foxx, singer Lionel Richie and Longoria's "Desperate Housewives" co-stars.

The San Antonio Spurs guard, most valuable player in this year's NBA finals, would not say who his best man would be, though he has not denied reports that it would be fellow French NBA star Boris Diaw of the Phoenix Suns. *AFP*

TONY Parker and Eva Longoria AP

'Sex and the City' to hit big screen after all

LOS ANGELES—THE FOUR WOMEN WHO spiced up Manhattan's singles scene for six years on the HBO television series "Sex and the City" appear headed for a big-screen reunion after all.

New Line Cinema, a corporate sibling of HBO under Time Warner Inc., is close to sealing a final deal to finance and distribute the long-stalled picture, a spokesman for the studio said on Thursday.

The project is set to begin shooting in the fall with all four stars of the HBO hit—Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis and Cynthia Nixon—reprising their roles.

Longtime series executive producer Michael Patrick King directs the film from his own script and serve as producer, along with Parker and series creator Darren Star.

No release date has been set, but the movie presumably would arrive in theaters sometime next year.

Plans for a movie were first revealed by HBO in early 2004, months before the show ended its six-season run. *Reuters*

Just say, 'I don't'

REVIEW

NEW YORK—HERE'S HOW BAD "License to Wed" is: Even the outtakes at the end are lame.

It's a one-joke movie, and that one joke isn't even funny to begin with.

Robin Williams is constantly straining as Reverend Frank, minister from hell who forces newly engaged Ben (John Krasinski) and Sadie (Mandy Moore) to undergo a sadistic marriage prep course before saying "I do."

You'll wish you'd said "I don't."

It is refreshing, though, to see a new face in Krasinski as the straight man in one of these wacky romantic comedies. The co-star of TV's "The Office" has unconventional good looks and an easy likability about him. And he's not Ben Stiller or Luke Wilson or someone else you've seen a thousand times before.

But this is the second flat, shrill chick flick Moore has starred in this year, following "Because I Said So." Wanda Sykes, Bob Balaban and Grace Zabriskie are squandered here in bit parts.

The story bafflingly took four writers to concoct. Ben and Sadie meet awkwardly in line at Starbucks, fall in love and move in together. When he asks her to marry him—in front of everyone at her wealthy parents' 30th wedding anniversary party— she says yes, but tells him it's been her lifelong dream to be wed at her family's church.

That's where Reverend Frank rules absolutely. Before he'll marry any couple, he makes them pass his bizarrely intensive course.

Kwapis has directed episodes of "The Office," and he actually showed a surprisingly deft hand at potentially painful material with his adaptation of "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants." Sitting through that movie again would be preferable, even for guys—at least the characters felt like real people. *AP*

Gary still in the fast lane at 42

From page H1

him and I like his music, because it's not like my music. He's into rock while I'm very pop. But—and this is what makes me smile—the sound engineers tell me that when they see Paolo trying to hit a note while recording, he makes these little hand movements that remind them of me."

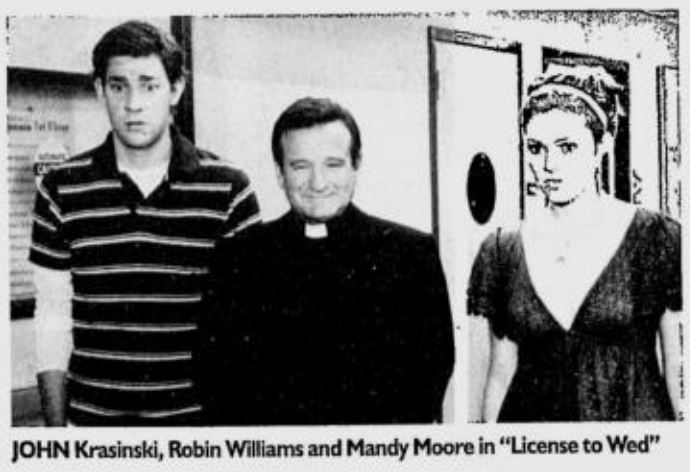
At the press con, Paolo was overheard saying he's not the typical rebellious kind of rocker. "I just happen to like and write rock songs." Paolo is lead vocalist of the band Salamin, which has just released its self-titled debut album on ABS-CBN's Star Records.

As Angeli coaxes Paolo to mingle with entertainment writers, Gary butts in with more news: He's celebrating his silver anniversary in show biz next year and planning to put out 25 things that the fans will love.

One of them is a major concert which, Gary says, may be his most ambitious gig—and the best, if he gets to do all the stuff that's playing in his mind.

His next studio album will be "all remakes, but … songs that Filipinos may have not heard in a long while." Gary remembers surprising Angeli with a CD of songs he recorded on his own with a piano. "I was driving the car one day and Angeli said she wished I would record some of her favorite songs… Well, I did it and gave it to her as a Christmas gift. I titled it 'At Home: Just for You.'"

Gary V hits the road for the second leg of his "Pure Inspiration" Philippine tour on July 13 at the CPU Gymnasium, Iloilo City; July 18 at the Macias Sports Complex, Dumaguete; and July 20 at the University of St. La Salle, Bacolod City.



JOHN Krasinski, Robin Williams and Mandy Moore in "License to Wed"

Did You Know...

JULY 8-14 in show biz:

1939: Frank Sinatra made his first record, "From the Bottom of My Heart" f/s "Melancholy Mood."

1964: The Supremes released their first hit, "Where Did Our Love Go."

1968: Guitarist Eric Clapton announced the break-up of Cream.

1985: "Playboy" and "Penthouse" magazines went on sale with nude photos of Madonna.

1990: The movie "Ghost" was released.

1995: The Grateful Dead gave their last concert with Jerry Garcia, at Chicago's Soldier Field.

POWER PLANT CINEMA

ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41 — DOLBY DIGITAL

DIE HARD 4.0 PG13 1:30,4:10,6:50,9:30	TRANSFORMERS G 12:00,3:00,6:00,9:00	TRANSFORMERS G 1:00,4:00,7:00,10:00
DIE HARD 4.0 PG13 11:20,2:00,4:40, 7:20,10:00	TRANSFORMERS G 12:30,3:30 DIE HARD 4.0 PG13 6:20,9:00	DIE HARD 4.0 PG13 12:10,2:40,5:20,8:00

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Harry Potter AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX™

IN CINEMAS JULY 11

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EASTWOOD CINEMAS

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX

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GUARANTEED SEATS

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	DIE HARD 4.0 1:25, 4:35, 7:45, 10:55 PG-13
2	TRANSFORMERS 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50 G
3	DIE HARD 4.0 1:55, 5:05, 8:15, 11:25 PG-13
4	TRANSFORMERS 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30, 11:20 G

MMTA METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

CINEPLEX

1 (10:00)	TRANSFORMERS
2 (10:00)	DIE HARD 4.0
3 (10:00)	DIE HARD 4.0
4 (10:00)	TRANSFORMERS
PREMIERE	
(10:00)	TRANSFORMERS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati

Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	TRANSFORMERS
2	TRANSFORMERS
3	TIYANAKS
4	DIE HARD 4.0

stormall

(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160

3	DIE HARD 4.0
4 (10:00 & 12:45)	TRANSFORMERS
5	RESERVED

metropolis star cinema

www.clickthecity.com.ph

(ALABANG) tel. 8004285, 5433654

1	TIYANAKS
2	DIE HARD 4.0
3	TRANSFORMERS
4	CAPE KARMA

THEATRES

1	DIE HARD 4.0
2	TRANSFORMERS
3	TIYANAKS

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC

Pacific Mall Lucena Tel. (042) 660-5273

1	TRANSFORMERS
2	DIE HARD 4.0
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED

Filinvest DEBUYAN CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (09:00)	TRANSFORMERS
2 (10:00)	DIE HARD 4.0
3 (01:00)	DIE HARD 4.0
4 (02:15)	DIE HARD 4.0
5 (03:30)	DIE HARD 4.0
6 (05:30)	TRANSFORMERS
7 (07:30)	TRANSFORMERS
8 (09:30)	TIYANAKS
9 (11:45)	FANTASTIC FOUR
10 (01:45)	TRANSFORMERS

Blue Wave MALL & MOTION

Sucat-Alabang Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Muntinlupa City tel. 9341921

1 (10:00)	TRANSFORMERS
2 (10:00)	TIYANAKS
3 (10:00)	DIE HARD 4.0
4 (10:00)	RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228

1 (10:00)	DIE HARD 4.0
2	TRANSFORMERS
3	TIYANAKS
4	DIE HARD 4.0
5	SILIP

MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	NEXT
2	TRANSFORMERS
3	TIYANAKS
4	CAPE KARMA

Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	TIYANAKS
2	DIE HARD 4.0
3	TRANSFORMERS

Center Mall Cinema

Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1	DIE HARD 4.0
2	TRANSFORMERS

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (10:00)	DIE HARD 4.0
2	TIYANAKS
3 (01:00)	DIE HARD 4.0
4	TRANSFORMERS

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
2	TIYANAKS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (09:00)	DIE HARD 4.0
2 (10:00)	TRANSFORMERS
3 (10:00)	DIE HARD 4.0
4 (01:00)	TRANSFORMERS

CINEMA 2000 — Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	TIYANAKS
2 (09:00)	TRANSFORMERS
3 (10:00)	DIE HARD 4.0
4	

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111148

1	RESERVED
2 (10:00)	RESERVED
3 (01:00)	RESERVED
4	RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	DIE HARD 4.0
2	TIYANAKS
3 (10:00)	TRANSFORMERS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown

(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	INVISIBLE
2	TIYANAKS
3 (10:00)	DIE HARD 4.0
4 (01:)	TRANSFORMERS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	DIE HARD 4.0
2	TRANSFORMERS
3 (10:00)	TIYANAKS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1	DIE HARD 4.0
2	TRANSFORMERS

Lianas Cinema

(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1	FANTASTIC FOUR
2	WILDERNESS

Lianas Cinema

(Malabang) tel 850.1276

1 (09:00)	TRANSFORMERS
2	KALABIT
3	ANAKAN MO AKO
4 (01:)	NEXT

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (10:00)	TIYANAKS
2	NAGHUHUMIYAW
3 (01:)	DIE HARD 4.0
4	BORDERTOWN
5	TRANSFORMERS

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	INVISIBLE
2	TRANSFORMERS
3	TIYANAKS
4	DIE HARD 4.0

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	PURI

PAGAY NAGING BIGAS MAY BUMAYA

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	DIE HARD 4.0 11:45, 2:35, 5:20, 8:05, 10:50 PG-13
CINEMA 2	TRANSFORMERS 10:35, 1:25, 4:15, 7:05, 10:00 GP

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS

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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3	TRANSFORMERS / DIE HARD 4.0 12:45, 3:50 / 6:35 9:20 GP/PG-13
CINEMA 4	TRANSFORMERS 10:30, 1:30, 4:30 7:30, 10:30 GP
CINEMA 5	DIE HARD 4.0 11:00, 1:45, 4:30 7:15, 10:00 PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

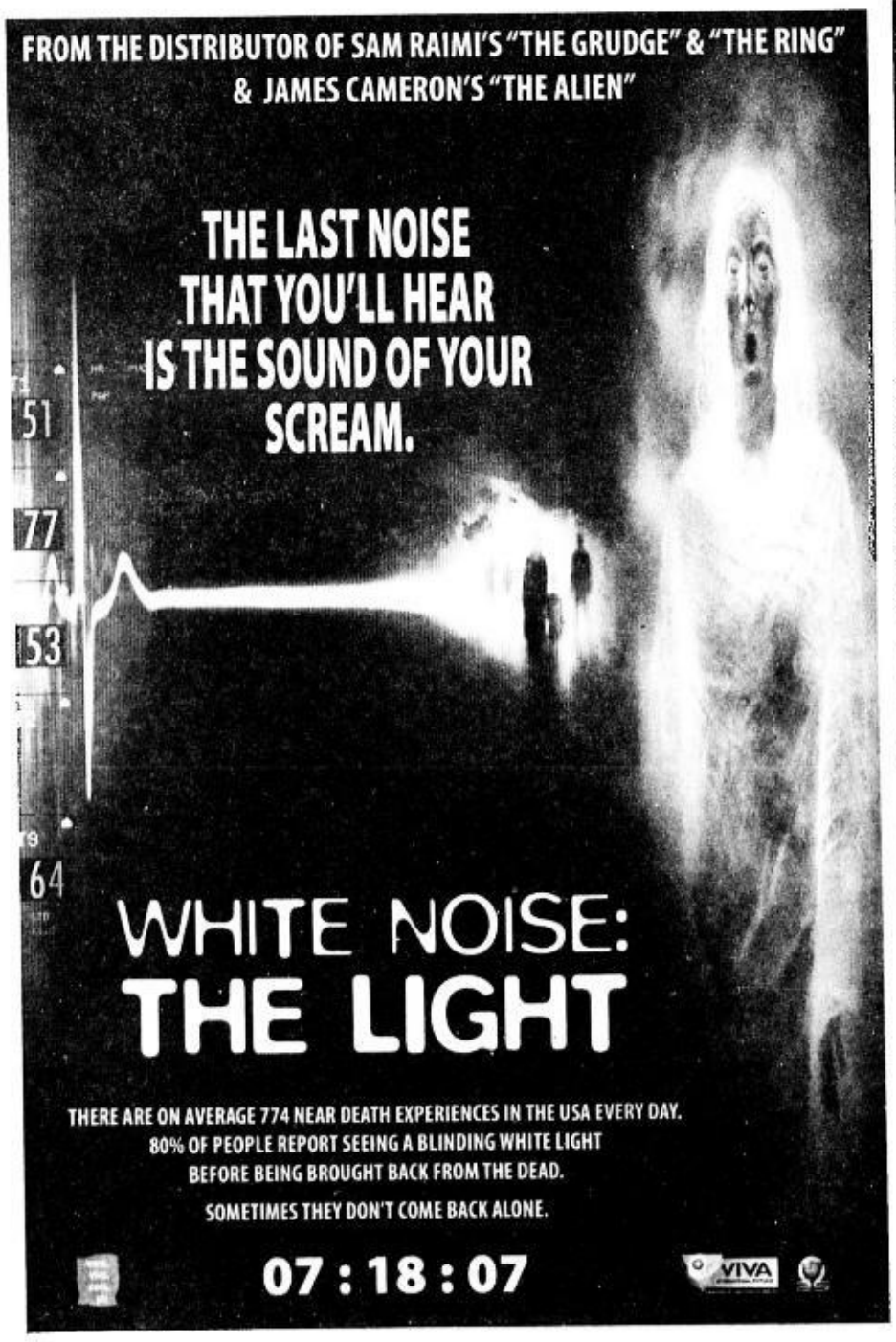
MUSIC MUSEUM

July 7, 2007	Feelin' Las Vegas ., " Willie Nep "	8:30 PM
August 24 & 25, 2007	Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez	8:00 PM

TEATRO — PROMENADE GREENHILLS

July 06, 13, 20 27, 2007	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
August 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 29-30	Cerruda Classics . Classic	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116



ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

Ticket Price THX: P160 110 Indie Sine: 109 632-9116

1 DIE HARD 4 • THX
11:30 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30

2 TRANSFORMERS
10:30 1:15

3 DIE HARD 4
11:30 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30

4 TRANSFORMERS
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

7 DIE HARD 4
1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

8 TRANSFORMERS
12:15 3:00 5:45 8:30

9 TRANSFORMERS
12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00

10 TIYANAKS
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!!! for Harry Potter at Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA • ERMITA METRO EAST and PIONEER

OPENS JULY 11 AT

ERMITA

Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 DIE HARD 4
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10.00

2 BUG 12:00 1:55 3:40
FANTASTIC FOUR 4:05 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 TRANSFORMERS
12:15 3:10 6:05 9:00

4 PARAISO
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 TIYANAKS
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 10:00

6 DIE HARD 4
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

7 TRANSFORMERS
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

METRO EAST

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 • 682-8196

1 TRANSFORMERS
2:50 5:50

2 DIE HARD 4
11:50 2:50 5:50 8:50

3 DIE HARD 4
12:20 3:20 6:20 9:20

4 TRANSFORMERS
11:45 2:50 5:50 9:00

5 PARAISO
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

6 FANTASTIC FOUR
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 DIE HARD 4
11:20 2:20 5:20 8:20

8 TIYANAKS
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price: P90 / P100 936-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TIYANAKS
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 TRANSFORMERS

PIONEER

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 657-5378

1 DIE HARD 4
11:00 2:00 5:00 8:00

2 DIE HARD 4
1:30 4:30 7:30

3 TRANSFORMERS
3:15 5:55 8:35

4 TRANSFORMERS
12:05 2:45 5:25 8:05

Get a Harry Potter folder for a minimum single purchase of two (2) REGULAR MOVIE TICKETS.

A customer may get a maximum of two (2) folders for single ticket purchases of MORE THAN 2.

*Offer also valid for advance ticket sales

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TIYANAKS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 TRANSFORMERS

LIPA

Ticket Price: (043) 757-3664 P 90 (043) 312-5870

1 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4
3 THE INVISIBLE
4 TIYANAKS
5 TRANSFORMERS

DASMARINAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TIYANAKS

IMUS

Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4
3 NEXT
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TIYANAKS
6 FANTASTIC FOUR

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P 90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 DIE HARD 4

TARLAC

1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 THE INVISIBLE

STARMILLS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 878-1927

1 TRANSFORMERS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TIYANAKS
5 DIE HARD 4
6 DIE HARD 4

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 RESERVE
5 THE INVISIBLE
6 TIYANAKS

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TIYANAKS
6 THE INVISIBLE

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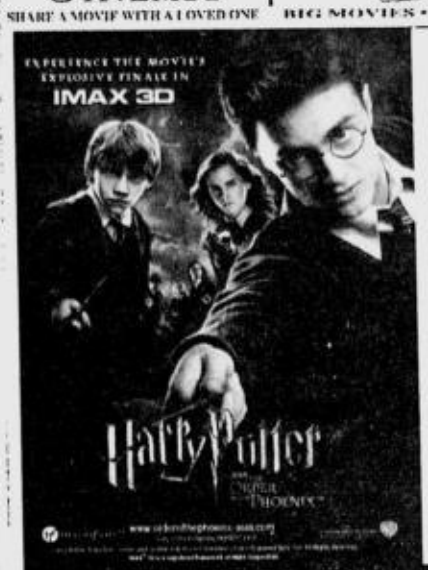

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Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

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P 350 (Monday to Thursday, before 5pm)
P 400 (Monday to Thursday, 5pm onwards, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Holiday whole day)

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OPENS JULY 11

SCREENING TIME	JULY 11 (WEDNESDAY)	JULY 12 (THURSDAY)	JULY 13 (FRIDAY)	JULY 14 (SATURDAY)	JULY 15 (SUNDAY)	JULY 16 (MONDAY)	JULY 17 (TUESDAY)
11:00 AM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	FEW SEATS	OPEN	OPEN
2:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
5:00 PM	FEW SEATS	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
8:00 PM	SOLD OUT	FEW SEATS	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
11:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	FEW SEATS	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

Subject to change without prior notice. You may also call your favorite SM Cinema branch and The Podium Cinemas for their respective advance ticket selling/showing schedules.

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX
SPIDER-MAN 3 8:00PM Admission Prices: P 350
T-REX 1:00PM 4:30PM Admission Prices: P 200
ANT BULLY 2:30PM 6:00PM Admission Prices: P 250
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 TIYANAKS
6 NEXT

PREMIERE CINEMA
DIE HARD 4

CENTERSTAGE
TRANSFORMERS

—THE— PODIUM

CINEMA 1
TRANSFORMERS
CINEMA 2
DIE HARD 4
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 DIE HARD 4
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 TIYANAKS
9 FANTASTIC FOUR
10 PARAISO
11 DIE HARD 4
12 TRANSFORMERS

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 DIE HARD 4
2 PARAISO
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 DIE HARD 4
7 DIE HARD 4
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 TRANSFORMERS
12 TIYANAKS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 PARAISO
2 TIYANAKS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 DIE HARD 4
7 DIE HARD 4
8 TIYANAKS
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 WILDERNESS
12 NEXT

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 BUG
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 PARAISO
9 TIYANAKS
10 NEXT

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 PARAISO
5 FANTASTIC FOUR/ DIE HARD FOUR
6 TIYANAKS

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TIYANAKS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 DIE HARD 4
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 DIE HARD 4
8 TRANSFORMERS
9 PARAISO

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 NEXT
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 DIE HARD 4
7 OCEAN'S 13
8 PARAISO
9 BUG
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 TIYANAKS
12 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4233201-04
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 TIYANAKS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS

John McClane is on a mission to unravel the identity of the mysterious figure who hacks all computer systems to shut down the entire tech-dependent nation.

The mysterious figure seems genius enough, as he covers every digital angle, but McClane and his newfound young techie buddy fights back in an old-fashioned analog way.

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MTRCB Rating: PG-13

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 NEXT
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TIYANAKS
6 PARAISO
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TIYANAKS
6 PARAISO

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TIYANAKS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 DIE HARD 4
2 PARAISO/ FANTASTIC FOUR
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TIYANAKS
6 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TIYANAKS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS/ MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TIYANAKS

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)8637681-85
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 PARAISO
6 TIYANAKS

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 INVISIBLES
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TIYANAKS

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 THE SHOOTER

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TIYANAKS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TIYANAKS

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TIYANAKS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 INVISIBLES
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TIYANAKS
5 DIE HARD 4
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 RESERVED
8 PARAISO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 PARAISO
6 TIYANAKS
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY DACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

Rushes Sunday

From page H6

JAY MANALO

moved, if we are moved):

• **Jay Manalo** *inaresto sa* bomb joke.

• **Gretchen Barretto** *at* **Tonyboy Cojuangco,** *magbabahad sa* US.

• Greta back in Manila with Tonyboy Cojuangco. (*Bilis naman magbabad.*)

• *Tamang umalis muna si* Angel Locsin, *para manabik ang* fans *sa kanya.*

• Angel, *urong-sulong sa paglipat sa* Dos.

• Angel, *triple ang inaalok na bayad ng* ABS? (*Sulong* factor?)

• Angel, **Piolo Pascual,** *magsasama sa* Dos. (*Urong?*)

Hindi, hindi!

• **Vic Sotto,** *hindi nangangaliwa.*

• *Sustento ni* **Jolo Revilla** *sa anak, hindi nade-delay.*

• *Hindi kami hiwalay*—Shine *at* Buboy.

• *Hindi naging kami ni* Paolo—**Wendy Valdez.**

• Wendy, *umaming nag-date sila ni* Paolo *at hindi nag-sex.*

• **Sam Milby** *ayaw patusin si* **Angelica Panganiban.**

• Sam, *takot agawin si* Angelica *kay* Derek. (*Kaya pala.*)

What's NSQ?

• New PBB winners NSQ (No Star Quality).

• **Beatriz,** *sapaw kay* Wendy *kahit siya ang* PBB winner.

• **Gee-Ann** *mas* feel *si* **Bodie** *kaysa kay* **Mickey.**

• Love triangle *ng* PBB.

• Bodie *at* Gee-Ann, *nag-date sa* Powerplant.

• Wendy, *pinatatawad na nina* Bea, Gee-Ann *at* Mickey. (Give these kids something to do. Soon.)

• PBB ex-housemates, *may karapatan bang mag-artista?* (Soonest. Anything. Please.)

• **Lea Salonga,** *kumanta sa* finale *ng* Macy's 4th of July Fireworks *sa* New York. (Fireworks finale?)

Get it?

• **Yasmin, JC de Vera** *magha-*honeymoon *sa* Hong Kong. (Wedding to follow?)

• **Katrina Halili, Cristine Reyes,** *pilit pinagsasabong.* (*Oo nga.*)

• *Bangayang* Katrina-Cristine *ang* cheap-cheap *ng dating.* (*Oo nga.*)

• **Pops,** *imbiyerna sa ka-* live in *ni* **Martin.** (*Ha?*)

• Pops *at* Martin, *may bagong* show. (*Ah.*)

• **Iya Villania**'s advice: "A lot of girls today are too conscious about being beautiful, when all they should do is just be as natural as they can be. Then they can shine in anything they'll do." (*Kuha n'yo?*)

• **Ruffa Gutierrez** *aabutin ng* 10 *taon bago ma-*in love *uli.*

• **Annabelle** *at* Ruffa, *bati na.*

• Ruffa to the press: Don't harrass people. (All together now, press people to Ruffa: _____!)

Wanted: Game Girls

GIRLS, DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

There are two big searches going on, each with its own requirements and promise of celebrity.

Pop group

Sony BMG is looking for five talented young women to form a new pop group to be called Game Girls.

The search, according to the organizers, combines the format of a talent competition and a beauty pageant. It is open to Filipinas from 18 to 23 years old, who "possess beauty, sex appeal, outgoing personality and outstanding singing and dancing skills."

The lucky five will win a recording/talent management contract from Sony BMG and an endorsement deal worth P100,000 each.

Auditions are being held at the Sony BMG head office, 17th Floor, Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, and at the Chris Cahilig Consultancy office, Unit 1801 Cityland Shaw Tower, St. Francis Street cor. Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City.

Call 687-2649 or (0928) 503-5762.

Miss Trendsetter

Ladies from 16 to 23 years old are invited to try out for Miss Trendsetter 2007 at the Millenium Plaza Hotel on Makati Avenue on July 11 and 18.

Applicants should each bring with them high-heeled shoes, a cocktail dress and a swimsuit.

Audition is from 1 to 5 p.m. Pageant night is set on Sept. 7, 8 p.m. at the NBC Tent, The Fort Bonifacio Global City, in Taguig.

The grand prize winner will receive a trip for two to Bangkok P250,000, and a scholarship grant worth P500,000, plus other prizes.

Supporting the pageant is Pepsi Light.

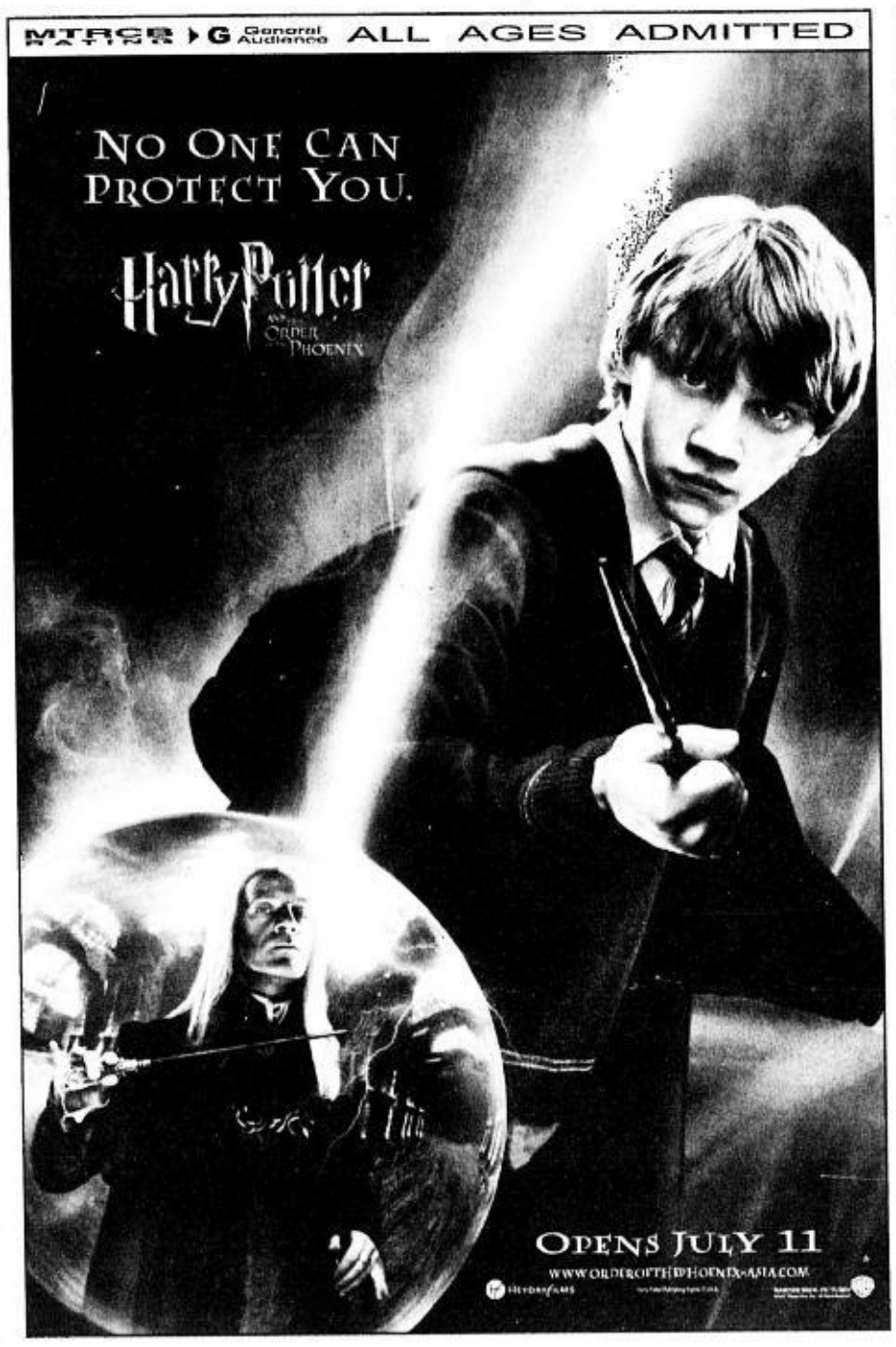
White Castle Girl

Destileria Limtuaco and media partner ABS-CBN just wound up a nationwide search for contenders for the title, "Next Whitie Castle Girl."

The contest proper airs for four consecutive Saturdays (starting yesterday) at 11 p.m., with the grand finals set on July 28, at 10:30 p.m.

Previous White Castle Girls are: Agnes Rustia, Evangeline Pascual, Peachy Veneracion, Tetchie Agbayani, Lorna Tolentino, Maria Isabel Lopez, Lyka Ugarte, Cristina Gonzales, Carmi Martin, Glydel Mercado and Roxanee Guinoo.

This year's winner will receive a house a lot from Sta. Lucia Realty Corp, a talent contract worth P300,000 from Destileria Limtuaco & Co., Inc., a trip for two to Boracay courtesy of SEAIR and Pearl of the Pacific Resort, one year supply of Mary Pauline Salon services and gift certificates from Red Chili Shop. Call 361-7491 to 98 local 840 or 0929-955 5931.



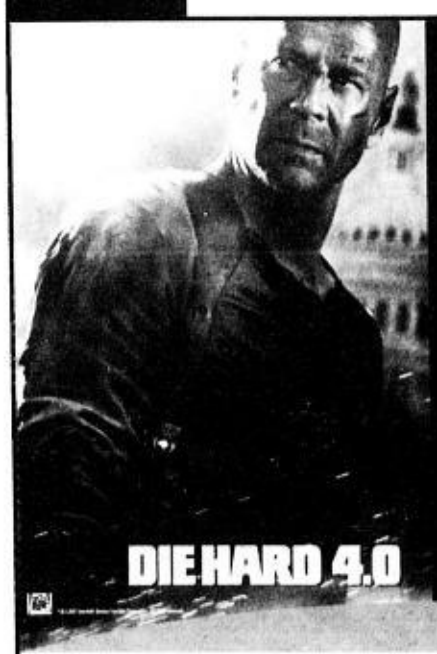
SHANG CINEPLEX
1 TRANSFORMERS MTRCB GP 11:30, 2:20, 5:10, 8:00
3 DIE HARD 4.0 MTRCB PG-13 12:00, 3:10, 6:20, 9:30
2 DIE HARD 4.0 MTRCB PG-13 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00
4 TRANSFORMERS MTRCB GP 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00
PREMIERE THEATRE TRANSFORMERS (GP) 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
Tickets now available!! for "HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX" Showing on July 11, 2007 (Wednesday)
Call 633-2227 or 633-7851 loc 170 / 171 for more details
6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City Call 633-7851 loc. 171/ 170 or 633-2227 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

AT THE CINEMAS
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations. Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

GLORIETTA 1	1 DIE HARD 4.0	2 TRANSFORMERS	3 DIE HARD 4.0	4 TIYANAKS
GLORIETTA 4	1 DIE HARD 4.0	2 TRANSFORMERS	3 THX DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	5 TRANSFORMERS	6 DIE HARD 4.0	7 TRANSFORMERS
GREENBELT 1	1 TRANSFORMERS	2 DIE HARD 4.0		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX DIE HARD 4.0	2 DIE HARD 4.0		
	3 TRANSFORMERS	4 DIE HARD 4.0	5 TRANSFORMERS	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 DIE HARD 4.0	2 DIE HARD 4.0	3 TRANSFORMERS	4 TRANSFORMERS
MARKET! MARKET!	1 DIE HARD 4.0	2 TIYANAKS		
	3 TRANSFORMERS	4 DIE HARD 4.0	5 TRANSFORMERS	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 TIYANAKS	2 TRANSFORMERS	3 TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 TRANSFORMERS	6 DIE HARD 4.0	7 THX DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS
CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000
Ayala Malls

glorietta	City Finds at the Park July 13 & 14, 2007 at Glorietta 3 Park
GREENBELT	The Fashion Sale (Up to 70% discount from participating Greenbelt 3 & 4 stores) July 1 to 15, 2007
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Electroworld Exhibit July 13 to 22, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	AV Surfer Exhibit July 1 to 15, 2007
MARKET! MARKET!	BPI Appliance Madness July 6 to 22, 2007
Onstage	ONSTAGE - The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays & coporate events is now accepting bookings for May to July 2007 For bookings, pls. call 752-7862 or 757-3861
Ayala MUSEUM	Damian Domingo: The First Great Filipino Painter Exhibit - June 19 to Jan. 6, 2008 Pioneers of Philippine Art - June 15 to January 6, 2008 For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	BARBIE BIRTHDAY BASH July 1 (2PM & 4PM) at the Activity Center HUMAN'S RICO BLANCO EXHIBIT July 2 to 15 (Mall Hours) at the 1st Level Exhibit Area



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Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservation.
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

Grocery Shopping Spree Promo
Get a chance to win a P50,000 grocery shopping spree for every P500 purchase at Alabang Town Center from July 1 to August 31
Plus, 5 winners of P10,000 grocery shopping sprees and 50 winners of Makati Supermarket grocery baskets!

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

Instructions for local media

By the Entertainment Staff

HI ALL,

I will have the media tent positioned somewhere inside the venue ... Please ask all accredited media to go there and inform them that final coverage IDs will be given before the show.

Also, please inform them that they will be escorted out of venue after the third song of Ms. Aguilera. They have the option to bring their cameras outside, and return (without cameras) to watch the show in the audience area. But nevertheless their cameras will still be escorted out.

***

This e-mail was received by the Entertainment desk on Wednesday. "Subject: Local Media." It pertained to the concert of US singer **Christina Aguilera** last night.

On Friday night, we got a second e-mail from the organizers (or their local partners), with more detailed instructions. Yes, for local media.

Here are the clear parameters for media coverage, for strict compliance.

[A] total of 3 photographers ... will be allowed to shoot 2nd and 3rd song. No flash. After 3rd song, they will be escorted out of venue. They may opt to go back and watch the show without their cameras.

For video coverage ... all shows [accredited] can cover front acts ... only 1 cameraman per show. No assistants will be allowed. They should proceed to media tent and will be escorted into the pit. After the front acts–they will be escorted out.

For 2nd and 3rd song ... (first 90 seconds of 2nd and 3rd song)–They will only be allowed to do recording of live feed–to be given to them by foreign video crew.

And so on. Wouldn't we all like to see the instructions for the foreign media?

RUSHES SUNDAY

New suitor

Angel Locsin has been spotted on a date with a yuppie type—also professional, unattached—reportedly the son of a retired actress and a military man. Where does this leave "Asian Treasures" co-stars **Robin Padilla** and **Marvin Agustin**?

SUNSHINE Cruz and Cesar Montano

Boys don't cry

A GMA 7 insider says Robin is still pursuing Angel, and is planning to visit her in London, where she will take a crash course in fashion design.

Joey answers back

Movie queen **Amalia Fuentes'** estranged husband **Joey Stevens** called up INQUIRER Entertainment to clarify a few issues.

•That he's only 71, not 75. He showed us an ID that stated his birth date, May 4, 1935.

•That he never said "Angie," during a previous interview, but "Etchie or **Tetchie Garcia**."

•That he referred to "Etchie" all throughout—particularly when he mentioned "the fling." He apologized to "all families involved."

Still livid

"He is 75!" Amalia insisted. "Anyway, if he was born in May 1935, then he's 72. [And] why should he apologize to anyone else? I was the only one he hurt!"

Non-breakup

It must be contagious.

Another show biz breakup rumor involves **Cesar Montano** and **Sunshine Cruz**.

Norma Japitana, Cesar's manager, denied the rumor that Sunshine had run away. "They're in their Quezon City house," Norma told the INQUIRER via SMS on Thursday.

Sunshine herself sent us this text message: "I was shocked ... I never left ... There is no breakup."

Asia's sexiest vegan

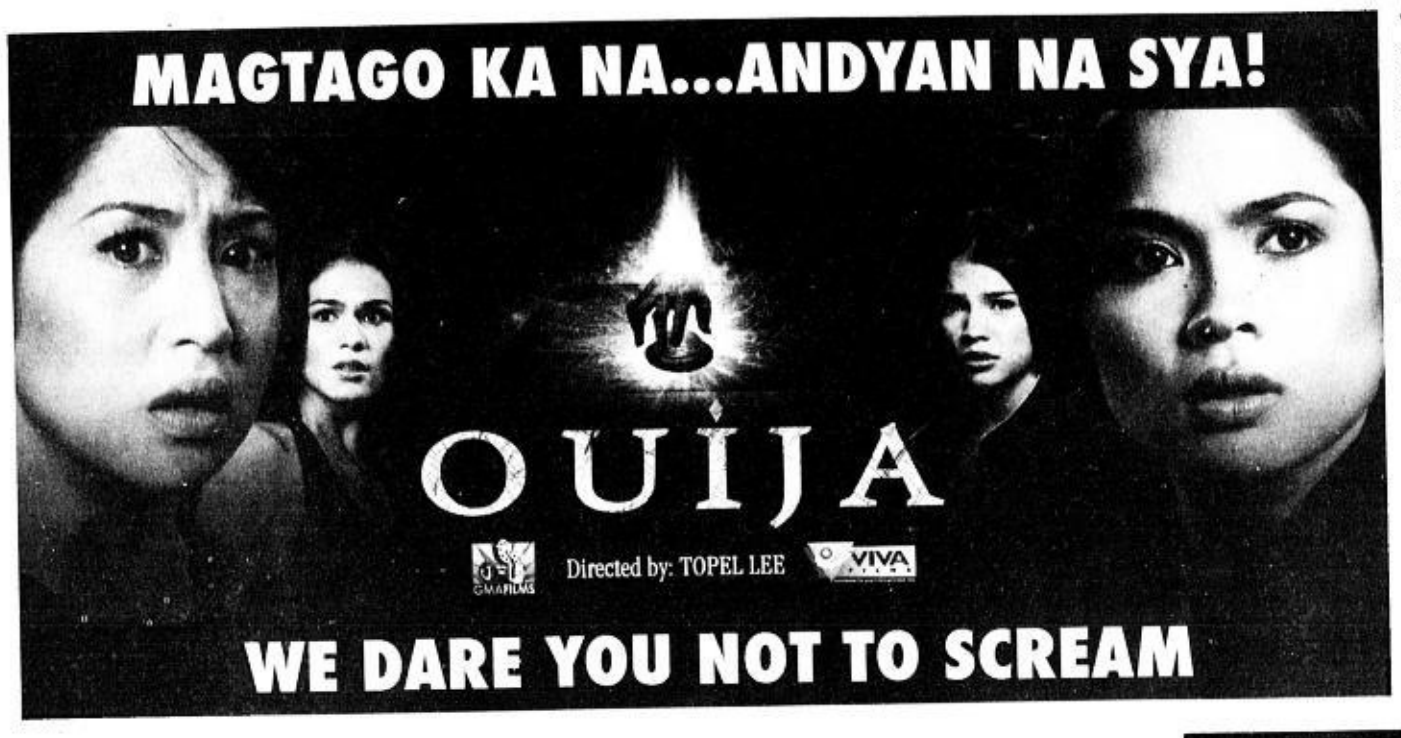
HONG KONG—"Die Hard 4.0" star **Maggie Q** has been named Asia's sexiest vegetarian by the animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. *AFP*

***

Top of the tabloids

Top show biz stories in local tabloids this week (and why we are

RUSHES/ H4



Get a chance to get exclusive access to the advance screening of

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX

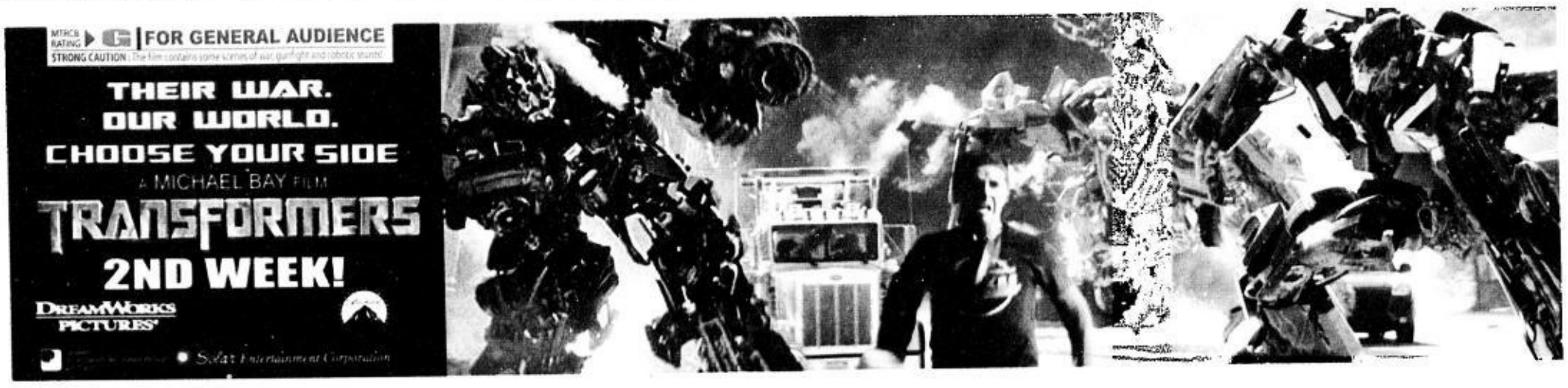
on July 10, 2007 (Tuesday) at Greenbelt 3 Cinema 2, 7:30pm

Please note that mobile phones and other hand held devices will not be permitted in the theater for any pre-release screenings of HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX. Please leave such devices in the car and/or at home. Any one found using mobile phones or other hand held devices during the screening will be asked to leave. We appreciate your cooperation and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Strictly by invitation only.

MTRCB Rating. General Audience. All ages admitted.

Tune in to MONSTER RADIO RX 93.1 get a chance to win exclusive invites to the most awaited movie of the year!



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Preferrably, between 30 to 45 years of age

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HYATT HOTEL AND CASINO MANILA

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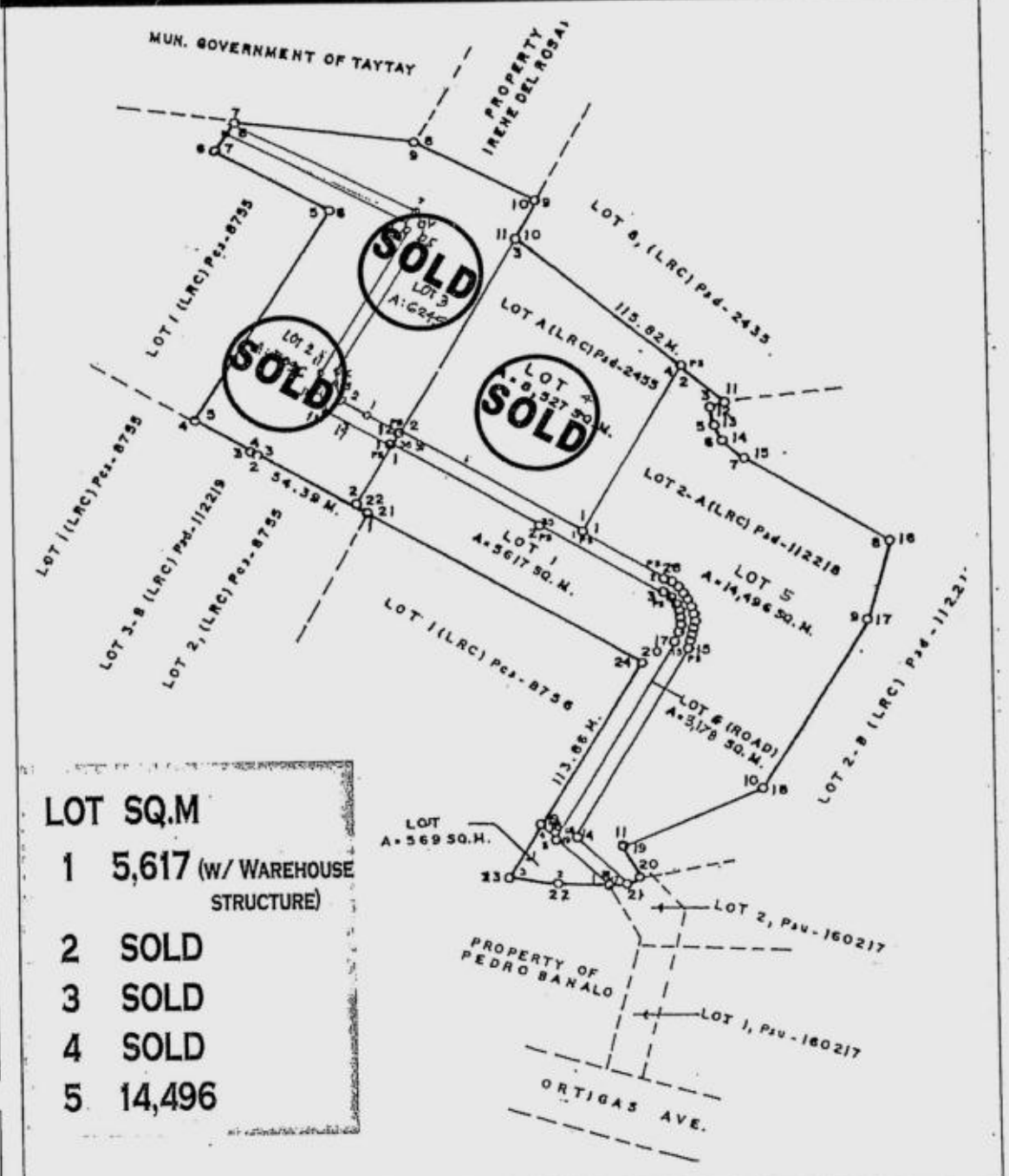

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3	SOLD
4	SOLD
5	14,496

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development 4-A
BATANGAS REGIONAL HOSPITAL
(Teaching and Training)
Batangas City

Project Reference Number 07-01
Batangas Regional Hospital
Kumintang Ibaba, Batangas City

July 4, 2007

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Batangas Regional Hospital through its Hospital Bids and Awards Committee (HBAC), invites suppliers to apply for Eligibility and to bid for Hospital Equipment, details as follows:

Approved Budget Estimate P2,000,000.00
Pre-Bid Conference ..... July 16, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.
Issuance of Bid Documents ..... July 13, 2007 - July 18, 2007
Opening of Bids ..... July 24, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids will use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification on the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bid documents will be available at the Supply Office only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Pesos Only (P1,000.00) to the Hospital Collection Department.

The Batangas Regional Hospital assures no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expense occurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) **ALFRED ALLEN E. BUENAFE, MD., FPCS, FSGS**
HBAC Chairman

(PDI – July 8 & 10, 2007)

NOTICE OF TRANSFER

Platinum Plans Phil., Inc. wishes to announce our transfer to our new corporate headquarters at the 17th Floor of the Antel Global Corporate Center, # 3 Doña Julia Vargas Avenue Ortigas Center in Pasig City starting July 4, 2007. Our new telephone numbers are 6164629, 6164630 and 6364324.

The transfer is in line with on-going efforts to rationalize operations of the company and to more effectively service our planholders with a more convenient and accessible location.

Platinum planholders are advised to transact business at Unit 1701 of the Antel Global Corporate Center effective said date.

The Management
PLATINUM PLANS PHIL., INC.

(PDI – July 8, 2007)

MUNICIPALITY OF LOPE DE VEGA
LOPE DE VEGA FARM TO MARKET ROAD

Bidding Documents
Invitation for Bids

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: July 1, 2007 & July 8, 2007
ADB Loan No.: 1772-PHI
Contract No.: SP-08-016

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT SECTOR (InfRES) PROJECT and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for ***Opening/ Construction of 11.20 kilometers Lope de Vega Farm to Market Road.*** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of the Asian Development Bank that:
   (a) are registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board to undertake infrastructure projects as a Class ***Medium A*** contractor or better, and
   (b) have undertaken within the past 5 years, as the contractor, management contractor or subcontractor, (3) road construction work projects valued at least Twenty Million Pesos (P20,000,000.00) each.
2. The *LGU- Lope de Vega* invites sealed bids from bidders with the above qualifications for the construction and completion of the Works, which includes *Earthworks (Clearing and Grubbing, Excavation and Embankment, Sub-grade Preparation, Laying of Base Course, Bridge Construction 54 meters length, Placement of PCC-pavement, and Installation RCPC 910 mm diameter. The contract period is twelve (12) months (365 calendar days).*
3. Bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect and acquire the bidding documents, at the office of the Employer at BAC Secretariat, LGU Lope de Vega.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00).*
5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of 2% of the **Total Bid Price** in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to LGU - Lope de Vega, Northern Samar. The Schedule or bid activities are as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue
Issuance of Bid Documents	July 9 - August 17, 2007	8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	BAC Secretariat, LGU Lope de Vega, N. Samar
Preparation of Bid Documents	July 9 - August 17, 2007		
Pre-Bid Conference	August 1, 2007	2:00 P.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Lope de Vega, N. Samar
Deadline for Submission of Bids	August 20, 2007	1:59 P.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Lope de Vega, N. Samar
Opening of Bids	August 20, 2007	2:00 P.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Lope de Vega, N. Samar

6. The LGU reserves the right to accept or reject any bids and to cancel the bidding process at any time prior to award of the contractor, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidders of the reasons for Employer's action.

(Sgd.) **RAUL B. LIMPIADO**
BAC Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 1 & 8, 2007)

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L8 B7 ROAD LOT 5 GOLDEN ACRES SUBD. TALON V, LAS PIÑAS CITY	240	600,000	180,000	with squatters
L6 B7 ROAD LOT 5 GOLDEN ACRES SUBD. TALON V, LAS PIÑAS CITY	240	600,000	180,000	with squatters
		2,400,000	720,000	
CENTRAL/NORTHERN LUZON				
CAMP TINIO BO. SANGITAN, CABANATUAN CITY	1,819	1,819,000	545,700	no right of way
CAMP TINIO BO. SANGITAN, CABANATUAN CITY	1,810	1,991,000	597,300	no right of way
CAMP TINIO BO. SANGITAN, CABANATUAN CITY	1,599	1,599,000	479,700	no right of way
		5,409,000	1,622,700	
SOUTH LUZON				
L5 MALABAN SUR, CANDELARIA, QUEZON	1,979	594,000	178,200	1/4 still owned
L-59 E-2 BRGY. STA. MARIA, NAUJAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO	20,000	600,000	180,000	ancestral
L-3-E BRGY. STA. MARIA, NAUJAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO	10,000	350,000	105,000	ancestral
		1,544,000	463,200	
CAGAYAN VALLEY				
PADASION, SANTIAGO, ISABELA	774	2,462,000	738,600	ancestral
BARRIO MARIA CLARA, DIFFUN, QUIRINO	4,961	993,000	297,900	
BARRIO PATUL, SANTIAGO, ISABELA	500	1,000,000	300,000	
		4,455,000	1,336,500	
WEST VISAYAS				
L1280D BO. GRANADA, BACOLOD CITY	1,001	600,000	180,000	with squatters
L531D-2 BO. SUM-AG, DIST., BACOLOD CITY	500	350,000	105,000	
L-2444A-3 BO. HUNOD-HUNOD ESCALANTE, BAC.	600	360,000	108,000	
L10-B POB. BINALBAGAN, NEG. OCC.	200	295,000	88,500	
L-270 KABANKALAN, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	24,484	368,000	110,400	
		1,973,000	591,900	
EAST VISAYAS				
LT.3368 BO. MARASBARAS, TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE	2,872	2,300,000	690,000	no right of way
SAN VICENTE, CATBALOGAN, WESTERN SAMAR	21,268	43,000	12,900	
		2,343,000	702,900	
NORTH MINDANAO				
KATIPUNAN RD. BRGY. STA.ISABELA, DIPOLOG CITY,ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE	149.25	150,000	45,000	portion used as road
POBLACION BUUG, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR	200	80,000	24,000	
		230,000	69,000	
SOUTH MINDANAO				
JUPITER ST. BO. KAKAR, COTABATO CITY	500	520,000	156,000	
BO. KAKAR, COTABATO CITY	400	258,000	77,400	
JP LAUREL ST., BRGY.POBLACION, SURALIA, SOUTH COTABATO	500	250,000	75,000	
B5 PUROK ROSAL, BRGY. NEW ISABELA, TACURONG, SULTAN KUDARAT	600	525,000	157,500	
BO. LAGUILAYAN, ISULAN, SULTAN KUDARAT	2,420	484,000	145,200	with squatters
		2,387,000	611,100	
TOTAL		20,391,000	6,117,300	

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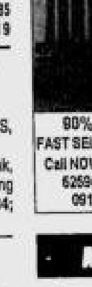

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Facing park Semi-Fur"
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>Salcedo Park Tower
"11a 4br SF-4 SALE/RENT"
>Residence@Greenbelt
22/f2br 119fa 2pkg P14.5m
Asia Tower 1br w/pkg
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Swire Elan Suite-Greenhills
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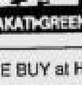

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late BELEN MORALES has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 26, Page No. 6, Book No. XIII, Series of 2007 before Notary Public Atty. Cesar Zagado of Makati City.
(PDI-July 1, 8 & 15, 2007)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MA. FE V. TOLENTINO was extrajudicially settled among her heirs per Doc. #395 Page #79 Book #1 Series of 2007 under Notary Public Atty. Samuel D. Dacayo of Nueva Vizcaya.
(PDI-July 8, 15 & 22, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that estate of the late CAPTAIN JAVIER BADIOLA MARMOL was extrajudicially settled among his hiers Mrs Arsenia Ramos Marmol, Marc Jayson Marmol, Anthony Edwards Marmol, Czarine Fatima Marmol as per Doc No. 287; Page No. 58; Book No. 17; Series of 2007 under notary public of Atty Pablo B. Ajesta of Quezon City
(PDI-June 24,July 1 & 8,2007)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late DELFIN C. RESURRECCION has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs Before Notary Public ROGELIO AGOOT of Makati City Per .Doc. No. 69 Page No.14 Book No. II Series OF 2007.(PDI -July 8,15,22,2007)

Notice is Hereby Given that the estate of the late MERCEDES C. CANLAS was Extrajudicially settled among her heirs as Per Doc No. 404 Page No. 82 Book No. 111 Series of 2007 Under Notary Public Atty. RENATO R. DEVERA of Quezon City (PDI-June 24 July 1 & 8'07)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Canlubang Golf Club Inc. Stock Certificate #1894 Issued to EIRVIN BEE KNOX is declared lost. If no contest received w/in 1 yr., new certificate will be issued. (PDI-July 1, 8 & 15, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that Loyola Plans Cons. Inc. CN#101930401-0 •0119093-3•0094694-9 & CFP#21053586;15277;12125 was declared lost by EDNA G. DE PEDRO. (PDI-June 24, July 1 & 8, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that APM Cert.# 25438, OPM Cert.# 258342 issued to MDR SECURITIES INC. has been lost. If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued. (PDI- June 24, July 1 & 8, 2007)

Notice of loss of A. Soriano Corp Stock Cert#397377 w/ 50,000 shares issued to RODERICK DY. If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued. (PDI - June 24, July 1 & 8, 2007)

To the general public: The Shares Certificate of Mr. Frank Parnham representing B Shares of the Orchard Golf & Country Club has bee missing. If no contest received, new certificate will issued. (July 1, 8 & 15, 2007)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Philippine Sugar Bldg., North Ave.,
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. (02) 454-0254; website http://www.nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of various FDC Laboratory Equipment

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2007 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P6,219,500.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *supply and delivery of various Laboratory and Power Plant Equipment*, as follows:

Item No.	Particulars	No. of Units	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	Calibration Gauge Block Set or Individual Gauge Blocks	1 set of 9 blocks	P 16,500.00
2	Biohazard Cabinet Hepa Filters	14	560,000.00
3	Elgastat 118 Deionizer Replacement Cartridge	3	150,000.00
4	Reference Pippator/Micropippetor, 1,000 to 10,000 uL, with 1 to 10 ml tips	4 1000 tips	240,000.00 100,000.00
5	Capillary Gas Chromatograph and accessories	1	2,300,000.00
6	Dietary Fiber Apparatus and accessories	1	1,750,000.00
7	Seven Speed Blender	1	60,000.00
8	Resistance Temperature Detector (RTD) thermometer, with Probe and NIST calibration certificate	1	50,000.00
9	Manual Headspace Sampler	1	750,000.00
10	Four-in-one Stirring Hot Plate	1	130,000.00
11	General Purpose Steel Reversible Tray Cart	1	28,000.00
12	Chlorine Meter (High Range)	1	65,000.00
	TOTAL		P 6,219,500.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of various Laboratory Equipment*. Delivery is required within 60 calendar days from receipt of notarized contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB)**.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P10,000.00 in the form of *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *July 24, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on August 7, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond Issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *August 7, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity – NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Contact Person – Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama
Address – Philsugin Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Telephone/Fax No. – (632) 455-2758
Mobile Phone – (928) 4102732
e-mail address – vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph
Website – www.nfa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI – July 8, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Iloilo
City of Passi

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date: **July 8, 2007**
Contract ID No. SP-135-IN-01
World Bank Loan No.: **4446 PH**

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the **CONSTRUCTION OF ONE (1) UNIT TWO STOREY CITY HEALTH CENTER.** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The **City Government of Passi, Province of Iloilo**, invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the **Construction of 1 Unit, 2-Storey City Health Center.**
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting July 9, 2007 up to August 8, 2007 at the **BAC Secretariat, General Services Office, Ground Floor Passi City Hall, Passi City Iloilo** upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00)** or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of *ninety (90) days* after bid opening and must be accompanied by security of **FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P420,000.00)** in a form of cash, manager's check, certified check, bank guarantee issued by a commercial bank or its equivalent in a convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the **2nd Floor, Conference Room, Passi City Hall, New Townsite, Brgy. Sablogon, Passi City, Iloilo** on or before **10:00 a.m.** August 8, 2007 at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post qualification. The **Estimated Project Cost** for the subproject is: **SIXTEEN MILLION, NINE HUNDRED NINETY SEVEN THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY TWO PESOS AND 46/100 (P16,997,532.46).**
6. A pre-bid conference will be held at **10:00 a.m. on July 25, 2007 at the 2nd Floor, Conference Room, Passi City Hall, New Townsite, Brgy. Sablogon, Passi City, Iloilo.**

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MARVEN B. DAQUILANEA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – July 8, 2007)

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dti

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of janitorial and allied services for DTI and its attached agencies for a period of sixteen (16) months, with an approved budget of Twenty-four million pesos (Php 24,000,000.00).

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting 9 July 2007 up to 5 P.M. of 16 July 2007 during office hours at the DTI-BAC Secretariat, 6/F Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City c/o Mr. Maynard R. Peralta, with telephone number 751-5984, after paying a non-refundable fee of Ten thousand pesos (Php 10,000.00). A pre-bid conference will be held on 16 July 2007, 9:30 A.M. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Deadline for the submission of the eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals, and the opening of bids will be on 30 July 2007, 9:30 A.M. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. The DTI Bids and Awards Committee will not entertain late bidders.

The DTI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract in any of the situations enumerated in Section 41 of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and its implementing rules and regulations, without the DTI assuming any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) **MARIA LOURDES T. BAUA**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, DTI Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 8, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Port of Clark
Collection District XIV
Clarkfield, Pampanga

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, other related provisions of the same Code and CMO 5-2003, there will be a PUBLIC AUCTION SALE (Sealed Bidding) to be conducted at the Office of the District Collector on 24 July 2007 (Tuesday) of the hereunder listed diesel fuel. Said item shall be available for public viewing on 23 July 2007 (Monday).

In the event of failed bidding, the same shall be offered in a second auction to be held on the third business day following the first failed bidding at the same time and place with no reduction of the floor price and without need for further advertisement, except as to perishable items which may be auctioned again on the following business day. When at least two (2) of the sealed bids submitted in an auction fall within ten percent (10%) of the highest bid, the same should be above the floor price (clustering). Those in the cluster shall immediately go into an open bidding with the highest sealed bid serving as the new floor price of the lot being sold.

The winning bidder shall be required to pay 50% of the bid price either in cash and/or manager's check (PNB only) at the end of the bidding. For meritorious reason, said bidder may be allowed to make such payment not later than two hours from the awarding of won bid. The remaining balance of 50% of the bid price shall be paid within the next business day.

IMPORTANT:

Only registered bidders who have paid the Registration Fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) and Cash Bond (Refundable) of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) are eligible to participate in the auction sale.

Registration starts at 1:30 p.m. and will close at 2:00 p.m.

For further inquiry, please contact tel. no. (045) 599-7189.

SALE LOT NO.	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	FLOOR PRICE
01-07	100,000 liters diesel fuel	P3,272,434.00

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RONNIE C. SILVESTRE**
District Collector

(PDI – July 8, 2007)

PNOC

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2104
Direct Line: (632) 840-1614/Fax No.: (632) 840-1619

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through its Corporate Budget, intends to apply the sum of Five Million Seventy Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Four and 36/100 Pesos (Php5,070,664.36) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **COMPANY'S MALANGAS COAL PROJECT'S LUMBOG SATELLITE COAL MINE MANPOWER SERVICES** (the "**Project**"). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the bid opening.

PNOC EC now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **manpower services contract of the Company's Malangas Coal Project's Lumbog Satellite Coal Mine** located in Little Baguio, Imelda, Zamboanga Sibugay Province. The contract duration for the Project is seven (7) months or upon completion of the Lumbog Satellite Mine, whichever comes first.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty (60%) percent interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the Project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders from PNOC EC's Procurement Section (c/o Ms. J. C. Fabian) starting July 4, 2007 at the PNOC EC Head Office located in Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00).

For purpose of clarifying certain issues, a Pre-bid Conference shall be held on July 12, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. at the Garden Orchid Hotel in Zamboanga City. Site inspection shall follow thereafter.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted in three (3) sets each to PNOC EC's Bids and Awards Committee not later than ***10:00 A.M. on July 25, 2007***. Regional bidders, however, may submit their bids to the Superintendent of PNOC EC Malangas Coal Project, Mr. D. G. Gacutan, also on July 25, 2007 not later than 10:00 A.M. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The bids including the eligibility requirements shall be publicly opened on July 27, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. at the PNOC EC Head Office.

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph, in the DBM website at www.procurementservice.net, and at the July 4 and 8 issues of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JCF/BCB

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 4 & 8, 2007)

In need of the fl. positions, preferably experienced in Malls & Comml Arcade to be assigned in Cavite Area.

1) **Exp. Leasing Manager**, M/F, 30-45 yrs. old
2) **Exp. Marketing Manager**, M/F, 28-35 yrs. old
3) **Exp. Accountant**, M/F, 28-45 yrs. old
4) **Aircon Technician** w/ at least 2 yrs. exp.
5) **Electrician**, w/ at least 2 yrs. exp.

Submit comprehensive resumé with 2x2 latest photo at New Alabang Centro Bldg., Alabang Junction, Alabang-Zapote Rd., Muntinlupa City c/o Ms. Fely Posadas.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VIII
Government Center, Candahug, Palo, Leyte

DepED

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(NOTICE OF REBIDDING)

The **Department of Education, Regional Office No. VIII**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites CDA Registered Cooperatives eligible and qualified as suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors of school furniture to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Project : **Supply and Door-to-Door Delivery of Tables & Chairs, Elementary and Secondary Armchairs and Teachers Tables & Chairs in Various Schools in Region VIII.**

ABC & Funding Source : **Government of the Philippines CY 2006 GAA (15%) Allocation of DepED Desks & Armchairs Project**

Contract Duration : **One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days**

Delivery Sites : **"Door to door" delivery to various recipient schools**
(Refer to Schedule of Requirements)

Package	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	ABC (PhP)
A	Elementary Tables & Chairs (All wood)	2,319	4,930,932.50
	Teachers Tables & Chairs (All Wood)	65	
B	Secondary Armchairs (All Wood)	3,287	2,836,067.50
	Teachers Tables & Chairs (All Wood)	60	
	Total		7,767,000.00

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

Activities	*Schedule/Venue*
1. Issuance/Availability of Bid Documents	July 16-23, 2007, (8am-5pm) BAC-Secretariat
2. Pre-Bid Conference	July 23, 2007, 2:00 pm RICTC - DepED ROS
3. Receipt/Opening of Bids	Aug 06, 2007, 2:00 pm RICTC - DepED ROS

The **Bidding Documents** shall be available at BAC Secretariat Office, DepED Regional Office No. VIII, Government Center, Candahug, Palo, Leyte, starting on **July 16, 2007 to July 23, 2007,** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00) only, per package,** to the DepED RO VIII Cashier.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules & Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.gov.ph or call DepED-Regional Office No. VIII, at Telephone/Fax No. 053 3237180.

The Department of Education Regional Office No. VIII reserves the right to reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without hereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ALBERTO T. ESCOBARTE**
Director III
(Assistant Regional Director)
BAC Chairman

(PDI – July 8, 2007)

PNOC

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2104
Direct Line: (632) 840-1614/Fax No.: (632) 840-1619

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through the approved Corporate Budget for CY2007 intends to apply the sum of **Philippine Peso Five Million Two Hundred Eighty One Thousand One Hundred Thirty Six & 79/100 (Php5,281,136.79) being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)** to payments under the contract for the **REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT OF PNOC EC BATANGAS COAL TERMINAL RORO RAMP/BT07-050** (the "Project"). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

PNOC EC now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Repair and Improvement of PNOC EC Batangas Coal Terminal RORO RAMP. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before *July 13, 2007 @4:00 P.M at PNOC EC BAC Secretariat, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City* and secure the Eligibility Documents there from upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Pesos: Five Hundred (Php500.00)**. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. **The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on *July 17, 2007 up to 3:00 P.M. at PNOC EC BAC Secretariat, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City*.** Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at *Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City* on or before *3:00 P.M. of July 17, 2007.*

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from PNOC EC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *9:30 A.M.* to *4:00 P.M.* from *July 20, 2007.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *Php2,000.00 Pesos*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before *July 24, 2007 @3:00 P.M.*

PNOC EC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on *July 25, 2007 @9:00 A.M. in PNOC EC Batangas Coal Terminal, San Miguel, Bauan, Batangas.*

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before ***2:00 P.M. of August 7, 2007.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of *Surety Bond* and in an amount of *Php132,028.42 Pesos*. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on *August 7, 2007, at 2:15 P.M. in PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above mentioned address.

Completion of the Works is required by *Ninety (90) Calendar Days.*

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

Note: PNOC EC (Manila) Cashier Transaction is from 3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

(PDI – July 4 & 8, 2007)

AYALA ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB SHARES

FOR SALE

CALL: **817-39-19**
LOOK FOR: **Janelle**

WANTED

FEMALE SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- for resort based in Greenhills, Grace Bldg., Ortigas Ave.
- college graduate, 4 yr. course
- fluent in English

Tel. #7212265, 7219577

JOB OPPORTUNITY

SALES EXECUTIVES

- Male/Female, single, graduate of any 4-yr. course
- Computer literate, with or without experience
- Proficient in English communication skills

All applicants must be aggressive, 20-24 years old, willing to learn & with pleasing personality.

Pls. call for inquiries 241-6935 look for Badgie/Melca

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION: A BILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY

SEMINAR ON HOW TO SET-UP A MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION BUSINESS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Seminar Date: 8 September 2007 (1 Day Only)
Course Fee: Php 10,000 Per Participant
Venue: Discovery Suites (Ortigas)

10% Discount for first 10 Enrollees

COURSE OUTLINE: see our website for details

Website: http://www.asiaglobalconnect/MT/

Contact Person: Ms. Ibvi Arrah
Mobile: 09272066072

CALL: 4115604

Email: trainings@asiaglobalconnect.com

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Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514
JOB Market

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Name of Project: One Year Provision of Security Services for CCP and NAC

Approved Budget for Contract: Nineteen Million Nine Hundred Six Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Five Pesos & 44/100 only (P19,906,585.44).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act."

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat (c/o Cecilia E. Funtinilla) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting July 12, 2007 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the BAC Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable bid fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos only (P5,000). The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The CCP BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on July 18, 2007; 1:30 pm, 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa CCP (Main Bldg.).

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before August 01, 2007; 1:30 pm. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash/certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit or bank guarantee or surety bond based on the agency approved budget for contract. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on August 01, 2007; 1:30 pm. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The award of the project shall be based on the lowest calculated responsive bid received from the Bidders.

The CCP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BAC Secretariat
Cecilia E. Funtinilla
3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 632-832-3667
632-832-2511 local 1106/1107
Fax No. 632-551-5960
Website: www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(Sgd.) Ariel S.R. Yonzon
BAC Chairman

(PDI –July 8 & 15, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

We would like to inform the public that the following people, whose pictures appear hereunder, are no longer connected with **SEAOIL PHILIPPINES, INC.**

GRETZ FLORENCIO G. RIVERA
Effective August 15, 2006

NEIL WARREN Y. SANCHEZ
Effective April 10, 2007

ORVIN BEAM P. VILLAMOR
Effective April 10, 2007

Any transactions done by these personnel on behalf of the Company shall not be honored and deemed a misrepresentation of **SEAOIL PHILIPPINES, INC.**

SEAOIL

(PDI – July 8, 2007)

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR OFFERS TO PURCHASE THE CALACA PLANT OF BACNOTAN STEEL INDUSTRIES, INC.

Sealed offers for the purchase of the Integrated Steel Making and Rolling Mill Plant of Bacnotan Steel Industries Inc. (BSII), in Calaca, Batangas shall be received at the Office of the BSII Receiver, Unit 2701, 88 Corporate Center Bldg., corner Sedeno and Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City, with telephone numbers 782-19-81 and 782-19-82, no later than 3:00 PM of 23 July 2007. For purposes thereof, the offer forms and guidelines, upon payment of a non-refundable registration fee of 10,000 pesos, shall be available at the BSII Receiver's office starting from 9 July 2007.

Offers must be accompanied by a proposal cash bond in the amount set out in the Tender Documents.

The Receiver of BSII reserves the right to reject any or all offers.

All communication shall be addressed to:

The Receiver
Bacnotan Steel Industries Inc.
Unit 2701, 88 Corporate Center
Corner Sedeno and Valero St.
Salcedo Village, Makati City

(Sgd.) **DANILO I. CONCEPCION**
Receiver

(PDI–July 8 & 15, 2007)

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"
Damaged Motor Vehicles

2005 Toyota Vios 1.3 J M/T / ZBX-310
2006 Toyota Vios 1.3 J M/T / TYH-412
2005 Mitsubishi Montero Sport 2.8L / ZBC-714
1994 Toyota Corolla M/T / RNA-561
1994 Honda Civic ESI / TTM-400
2007 Ford Everest 4x2 M/T / ZHB-340

For particulars, please call
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c/oTristan Yoro & Arvin Callpjo
at Tel. No. 815-30-00

(PDI - July 7 & 8, 2007)

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(PDI–July 8, 2007)

TRANSCO, DORECO SIGN LEASE PURCHASE agreement for P67.1-M assets in Davao. The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) has entered into a P67.1 million lease purchase agreement with Davao Oriental Electric Cooperative (Doreco) for the sale of TransCo's sub-transmission assets comprising 57.18 circuit-kilometers of lines and 420 structures including the Manikling-San Isidro and Pintatagan-Mati 69-kiloVolt lines and the Pintatagan Switching Facility. The agreement brought to P2.09 billion the total sub-transmission asset sales since TransCo's divestment program began in 2004. TransCo President and CEO Arthur N. Aguilar says the transmission company remains committed to bring about power sector improvements as mandated by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) of 2001. Present at the signing ceremony held on June 28 at the TransCo Head Office in Quezon City were (from left) TransCo AVP for Finance Melinda Nuique, SVP & COO Jesusito Sulit, President Aguilar with Doreco board president Villanueva P. Olea, general manager Gregory A. Dukil, and engineers Ferdinand Hernaez and Moises Juaban.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

THIS IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT **MR. MELCHOR PINEDA**, WHOSE PICTURE APPEARS ABOVE, HAS A WARRANT OF ARREST UNDER CRIMINAL CASE NOS. 3445,3446 AND 3447 AT THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT, 1ST JUDICIAL REGUIO BANTAY, ILOCOS SUR. ANY INFORMATION AS TO HIS WHEREABOUTS MAY BE CONVEYED TO CP NO. 0917-465-92-33 OR TEL. NO. 074-442-7609. REWARD WILL BE GIVEN.

(PDI – July 8, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MA. LIZA C. GENER

Please be informed that effective February 28, 2007, **MA. LIZA C. GENER**, has no more connection, link and/or business association/relation with **TOTALDEV MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE (Reg No. E-624-4670)**. All transactions entered into by the said person on behalf of the cooperative shall not be honored.

(PDI – July 8, 2007)

NREA member's assembly

IN CELEBRATION OF THE UNPRECEDENTED growth in the real estate industry, the National Real Estate Association (NREA) will hold its Mid-year Business Meeting & Parangal on July 31, 2007 (Tues.), starting at 6 p.m., at the Makati Sports Club in Makati City. Sen. Edgardo J. Angara will be the guest of honor and speaker.

The occasion will also honor NREA members and former officers, including re-elected congressmen Eduardo C. Zialcita of Parañaque City, former NREA chairman; Jose G. Solis of Sorsogon, former NREA national president; Albert S. Garcia of Bataan, NREA chapter President & Mauricio G. Domogan of Baguio City; Mar Bacani, re-elected councilor of Antipolo City; and former Mayor Gaudencio Ferrer, board member of Bataan, among others.

The Mid-year Assembly will also feature the launching of the NREA Convention and Exhibits, which will be held on September 27 & 28, 2007.

For more particulars, pls. contact the NREA Secretariat at tel. nos. 913-4463, or 912-3492 (telefax).

OBITUARIES

Amparing

AMPARO SUNICO RODRIGUEZ

September 27, 1923 – July 7, 2002

Beloved wife of Benny (†)
and loving mother and grandmother of,

Wally, Dodge, and Gabriel

Lennie (†) and Noel

Ditas, Rey, Celine, Francis and Kevin

thank you for all the love, we miss you dearly.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who have in one way or the other kept her alive in their memories & prayers through the years.
A private mass will be celebrated on July 8, 2007, Sunday at 5:30 pm at The Conservatory, The Peninsula Manila.
Masses are also offered at the following parishes:

Santuario de San Antonio
Forbes Park, Makati
July 7, 2007, 6:00 PM

St. James the Great
Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa
July 7, 2007, 6:20 AM

Our Lady of Las Vegas Church
Las Vegas, NV
July 8, 2007, 7:00 AM

St. Thomas More Catholic Church Henderson, NV
July 7, 2007, 4:30 PM

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Juan A. Villanueva, Jr.

express our heartfelt gratitude to those who condoled with us, offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, gave donations, kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and who in countless ways comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

You are gone... But for us you never left...
God has you in His keeping... We have you in our hearts...

Our Dearly Beloved Nanay
CORAZON CABAÑERO PASCUA

now rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord. She joined our Creator on the 6th of July, 2007 at the age of 54.

Her loving husband **REYNALDO**; children **VIRNA, TIN-TIN, JR** and **TJ**; brothers **ADRIANO & MILAGROS, CARLOS & REMEDIOS, CONSTANCIO JR & ANGELINA**; sister **HILARIA & HUBERTO**; in-laws **MARGARITA & ROGER, HILDA & ROGER (†), MELBA & JUNIOR (†)**, all her relatives and friends request the pious readers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels and will be transferred to St. Theresa's College, D. Tuazon Ave., Q.C. on Friday, July 13, 2007 at 12 nn.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 14, 2007. Place and time of burial will be announced later.

FRANCISCO G. BRACEWELL, SR.

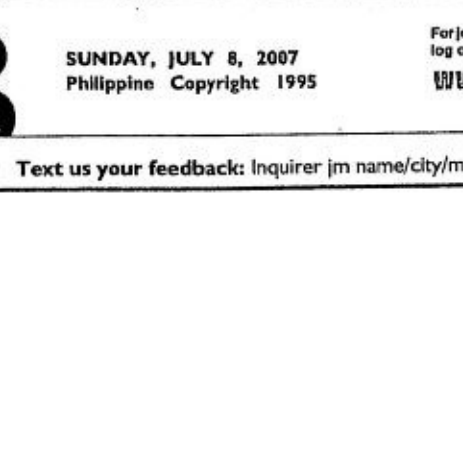
CHIEF SUPT. **MNSA (RET)**

peacefully joined the Lord on July 3, 2007 at the age of 67.

His wife **Esperanza**; children **Doc Jun, Josie** and **Lito, Grace, Marc** and **Arlene, Shirley** and **Jun**; grandchildren **Joanna, Jolay, Juzleen, Jushley** and **Justin** and his brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at #60 Mabini Extension, Cabanatuan City.

Interment will be on July 12, 2007 at the Cabanatuan City Old Public Cemetery after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at Dambana Church, Cabanatuan City.



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Inbound Customer Care Representatives
Recruitment Coordinator - Statistics & Documentations
Recruitment Associate (Project Based)
Marketing/Sourcing Officer

OPENINGS IN ORTIGAS:
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Technical Support Representatives
Finance and Sales Associates
Recruitment Specialist
Senior Statistician
Statisticians
SAS Analyst

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Recruitment Officer
Recruitment Specialist
Marketing/Sourcing Officer
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11/F i2 Bldg. Asiatown IT Park, Lahug, Cebu City
(032) 411 - 9200

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(02) 756-7088

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(02) 756-7188

ORTIGAS OFFICE
24th Floor, Robinsons Equitable Tower, #4 ADB Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City
(02) 857-7678

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

SELECTION STEPS:
I. Written Technical Exam
II. Panel Interview
III. Simulation Exercise
IV. Psychological Examination

NOTE:
- Each selection step is a hurdle point. Candidate has to meet the required rating per selection step to be able to proceed to the succeeding activity
- Specific date per selection step will be pre-assigned to successful candidates

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BUREAU OF IMPORT SERVICES
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

- Preserves competitiveness of domestic industries by administering import regulations and trade remedies
- monitor, analyze and forecast import levels and prices
- conduct preliminary investigation on dumping, countervailing and safeguard petitions
- provide recommendations based on findings of trade-related investigations

Core Requisites
- A degree in law or economics, or other related fields is an advantage
- Working knowledge on trade remedy measures
- Familiarity with the Philippine Laws and WTO requirements on importation (e.g. import procedures and regulations, customs valuation, safeguard measures, anti-dumping and countervailing)
- Action-oriented and with high leadership qualities
- Highly analytical with good negotiation skills
- Excellent oral presentation and written communication skills
- Highly developed IT skills
- With unimpaired integrity

BUREAU OF EXPORT TRADE PROMOTION
DIRECTOR

The post... serves as focal point for the Strategic Planning of Export Marketing and Trade Promotion of the Department of Trade and Industry

Core Requisites
- Preferably with a Masteral degree in international marketing, international management, business management, or equally applicable fields
- Several years experience in managing a marketing organization with strong background in:
  - corporate and strategic planning and monitoring; and
  - management of foreign market research, analysis and information service
- Ability to work and lead multi-disciplinary teams; ability to harness professionals into a dependable and credible team in the eyes of other agencies within and outside the Department
- Able to design, evaluate and implement strategic and operational intelligence on foreign markets and industries
- Well-informed in export business counseling
- Familiar with export-import procedures and other foreign trade laws and in international marketing
- Highly analytical with good negotiation skills
- Excellent oral presentation and written communication skills
- Highly developed IT skills
- With unimpaired integrity

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Promotes, accelerates, and regulates the growth and development of the construction industry. Exercises jurisdiction over its implementing boards namely: the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), Philippines Overseas Construction Board (POCB), Philippine Domestic Construction Board (PDCB), and the Construction Industry Arbitration Commission (CIAC).

Core Requisites
- Bachelor's degree in related field, e.g., Engineering, Economics, Business or Statistics
- Three years experience in related field such as policy development, industry promotion, construction accreditation, and dispute arbitration
- Strong leadership to direct the team towards policy implementation and construction industry accreditation and regulation
- Well informed in construction industry
- Familiar with policies on government and private construction contracts
- Highly analytical with good negotiation skills
- Excellent oral presentation and written communication skills
- Highly developed IT skills
- With unimpaired integrity

Note: Candidates for this position who have no Career Service Executive Eligibility (CSEE)/Career Executive Service Eligibility (CESE) but have passed the selection steps shall go through the CSEE/CESE examination. Date will be announced later.

BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE RELATIONS
DIRECTOR

The post... serves as focal point in the Department of Trade and Industry for trade policy and negotiations. The successful candidates will be primarily responsible for economic and trade matters in connection with ASEAN (AFTA) and its trade partners, APEC, the WTO, and all other bilateral trade relations.

Core Requisites
- Preferably with a degree in economics or law, or related fields. A completed graduate study in these fields would be an advantage
- Conversant about current national and international economic events and issues
- Keen in perceiving and analyzing the significance of issues and able to translate the same to viable and pragmatic approaches to national economic and trade policy formulation
- Well-versed in the Philippine's trade policies, the economic and trade relations of the country, and the country's participation in multilateral trading system
- Vast technical experiences and competence in the collection and analysis of quantitative data and information that would serve as inputs and bases for the preparation of trade policy recommendations
- Ability to negotiate trade agreements with his/her counterparts in other countries and enhance the trade standing and relations of the country with the international trading community
- With leadership qualities to harness the bureau into a team that is dependable and credible in the eyes of other agencies within and outside the Department
- Ready to travel internationally
- Highly analytical with good negotiation skills
- Excellent oral presentation and written communication skills
- Highly developed IT skills
- With unimpaired integrity

PHILIPPINE CONTRACTORS ACCREDITATION BOARD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Board issues, suspends and revokes licenses of contractors and investigates violations of construction licensing laws and regulations. Likewise, discharges such other powers and duties affecting the construction industry in the Philippines.

Core Requisites
- Bachelor's degree in relevant fields such as Civil Engineering, Architecture, Law, Accounting and other business-related courses
- Three years of successful technical experience in construction industry
- Strong leadership to direct the team towards policy implementation and construction industry accreditation and regulation
- Familiar with policies on government and private construction contracts
- Highly analytical with good negotiation skills
- Excellent oral presentation and written communication skills
- Highly developed IT skills
- With unimpaired integrity

Note: Candidates for this position who have no Career Service Executive Eligibility (CSEE)/Career Executive Service Eligibility (CESE) but have passed the selection steps shall go through the CSEE/CESE examination. Date will be announced later.

RURAL MICRO-ENTERPRISE PROMOTION PROGRAMME
MANAGER

The programme's development goal is rural poverty reduction through increased economic development, job creation and rural incomes for 200,000 poor rural households. Central to achieving this goal, and as its programme objective, RuMEPP expects to see increasing numbers of new and existing rural micro-enterprises expanding and operating profitability and sustainability.

Thus, the Programme Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operation and management of the programme. He exercises direct oversight and monitoring functions over the project activities, covering the two components of Micro-Enterprise Development and Promotion (MEDP) and Microfinance Credit and Support (MFCS), as well as the contracting and provision of Business Development Services (BDSs) to ensure attainment of the programme's objectives and targets.

Core Requisites
- Masters degree in a relevant social science
- 6-8 years professional experience in micro-finance management and implementation
- Strong background in contract/financial management and in-depth understanding of development and promotion of micro-enterprises
- Solid understanding of operations of microfinance institutions such as rural banks, cooperatives, and NGOs
- Hands-on experience in providing capacity building assistance to project staff
- Substantial experience in coordinating with Government (National Government Agencies/Local Government Units), NGOs, civil society, and foreign funding agencies
- Experience in project management with proven ability to manage administrative set-ups, rules and regulations and in handling people's organization
- Highly analytical with good negotiation skills
- Excellent oral presentation and written communication skills
- Highly developed IT skills
- With unimpaired integrity

Submit comprehensive application/resume *on or before 16 July 2007*
Human Resource Development Service
361 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue Makati City
or e-mail at hrds@dti.gov.ph

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ACQUIRE

CCF PHILIPPINES
An International NGO Working for the Well-Being of Children

PROGRAM MANAGER

Job Description:
Responsible for the overall management of CCF's program portfolio in the Philippines funded through sponsorship and grants. The Program Manager is expected to provide leadership and strategic direction to the Program Department ensuring quality planning, execution as well as monitoring and evaluation of CCF programs.

Qualifications:
- Masters Degree in Development Management, Social Science or related field
- At least six years experience in development work with at least two years on supervisory/managerial capacity
- Core competencies: program management, resource generation/mobilization and management, critical thinking and decision-making, communication (verbal and written), results orientation
- Demonstrates a high level of interpersonal and cross-cultural skills
- Can work effectively for long hours and when under pressure.
- Must have a good grasp of children's issues at national and global levels
- Willingness to travel to project areas at least 40% of the time is a must

Interested applicants may send their application letter addressing the position criteria outlined here together with a detailed Curriculum Vitae with 3 references and contact details to ccfno@ccfphilippines.org.ph not later than July 12, 2007. Due to the volume of applications we receive, we shall contact short listed applicants only.

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

- College graduate with computer skills
- Proficient in oral & written communications
- With good interpersonal and customer service skills
- Can work under pressure with minimum supervision
- Preferably with shipping experience

Qualified applicants may email their resumé to aislappl@yahoo.com or send to below address not later than July 22, 2007.

ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING LINES, INC.
Unit 204, Heritage Condo,
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Tel. No. 5243061 Local 205

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PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY HEALTH
Implemented by
Chemonics International Inc

(1) Grants Manager

Background:

Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM FP) aims to harness private sector motivations and capabilities to increase the share of total need for family planning that is met by the private sector as well as to reduce unmet need for family planning amongst women of reproductive age who have the capacity to pay. Chemonics is the lead organization of a consortium including EngenderHealth, The Manoff Group, EMI Systems, Philippines Business for Social Progress, Institute for Reproductive Health Philippines, Philippines NGO Council on Population Health & Welfare and several organizations in the Philippines.

The Grants Manager will be responsible for taking the lead role in creating and initiating the subcontracts/grants program and coordinating all PRISM in FP subcontract/grant-related work.

Grants Management

- Create and oversee overall policies, practices and procedures relating to grants management.
- Create specific procedures relating to solicitation and selection, grant awards, grant monitoring and evaluation and grant close-outs.
- Ensure the proper preparation and execution of grant documents and grant disbursements in line with USAID procedures and practices.
- Oversee the first few grant cycles to ensure adherence to established USAID and project policies.
- Ensure proper planning and preparation of synopses, agendas, minutes, memos
- Build results and results frameworks into the grants program.
- Analyze, assess, and assist with budgetary and financial aspects of grant proposals, recipient financial management capacities and needs and disbursement of funds/grants.
- Submit proposals to USAID for approval before awarding grants.
- Ensure that the grant recipient have good appreciation of the terms and conditions of the fund/grant as well as the clauses which provide guidelines on amendments, suspension, termination, disputes and other standard provisions in the administration and management of the grants.
- Ensure effective liaison between project staff and grant recipients, ensure that recipients are provided with suitable technical advice and assistance
- Prepare monitoring and evaluation report on a quarterly basis of the outstanding grants to include the problems encountered in the implementation of the grants and the corresponding resolutions.
- Work closely with the Senior Technical Directors, Operations Directors, Finance Manager, and other team members on all matters relating to grants.

Subcontract Management

- Prepare and administer local subcontracts as necessitated by the contract applying Project prescribed procedures.
- Lead in managing the local subcontractors, ensuring compliance with all relevant regulations.
- Ensure all contract-specified subcontract-related comply with regulatory requirements.
- Guarantee that subcontract-related and solicitation-based procurement files are maintained and are audit-ready at all times.
- Liaise closely with and provide all necessary assistance to the project's key personnel on issues related to the development, refinement, production, data management, and monitoring of an administrative system to track the activities and performance of subcontractors working under the contract.
- Contribute to the execution of the contract in compliance with contract provisions.
- Ensure proper planning and preparation of synopses, agendas, minutes, subcontracts checklist and other materials for review by the Project Evaluation Committee.
- Develop input for and guide response to audit questions as requested by the Chief of Party or his designee.
- Manage subcontractors' inventory, and general logistics as necessary
- Represent the project by protecting its contractual interests.
- Provide the Office Manager an electronic file and hard copy of all signed subcontracts and other related documents.
- All other duties that will be assigned by the Project Support Unit Director and the Chief of Party or their designee.

Job Qualifications

- Experience managing large grant programs, preferably with USAID
- Excellent project management and administrative skills
- Good analytical ability and knowledge of health organizations in the Philippines.
- An up-to-date understanding and knowledge of political and social conditions in the Philippines
- A knowledge of approaches suitable for assessing recipient organizations' grant-worthiness, as well as their financial, administrative and program planning capacities
- Patience, good humor, and an ability to get along well with people in a team, sometimes in demanding and/or busy circumstances.
- Experience and/or good understanding of donor organizations' procedural requirements in grant administration and management.
- Experience with NGOs, preferably health organizations in the Philippines, and experience monitoring and evaluating field projects.

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before July 20, 2007. Please indicate the "Position Code: GM" as the subject in the email

PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY HEALTH
Implemented by
Chemonics International Inc

(1) Grants Officer

Background:

The PRISM Project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, *Desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved*, focusing on three components: 1) increased workplace support for FP services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass market brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among private practice providers.

The anticipated volume of contracts to be managed under the project requires the services of a Grants Officer. The Grants Officer is expected to participate in specific steps in the grant-making process, namely: pre-solicitation, solicitation, review and selection, pre-award, award and post-award stages.

Pre-Solicitation
- Update and maintain list of associations, business organizations and other non-government organizations which are potential recipient/s of grant solicitations;
- Assist in organizing and in the actual conduct of pre-award orientations, proposal write shops, etc.; assistance includes documenting the proceedings and/or writing the minutes; and,
- Assist in the preparation of requests for applications (RFAs) and/or Annual Program Statements (APS)

Solicitation
- Assist in the issuance of RFAs e.g. preparation of newspaper ads, preparation of letters to partners announcing the solicitation, etc.;
- Follow up submission of applications; and,
- Maintain files of all solicitations and applications received (PRISM grant files)

Review and Selection
- Check for the completeness of submitted proposals and applications
- Organize meetings of Selection Committee which will evaluate applications for grant awards; and, prepares minutes of selection committee meetings

Award Stage
- Prepare notification letters to grant recipients
- Prepare of the grant agreements
- Conduct pre-implementation orientation

Implementation Stage
- Maintain all grant files
- Assist in monitoring compliance of grantees to their contract terms and in following up submission of required periodic reports from grantees
- Review the completeness and accuracy of documents submitted to facilitate payment orders or requests
- Update and maintain grants database

Closeout
- Follow up preparation and submission of terminal reports or deliverables
- Prepare grant completion certificates

Reporting:

The Grants Officer will report directly to Grants Manager

Qualifications:

- College graduate
- Minimum of 3 years experience in administering grants or subcontracts under USAID funding
- Knowledge of USAID procurement procedures
- Very skilled in various computer applications
- Good command in written and spoken English
- Has a keen eye for details

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before July 20, 2007. Please indicate the "Position Code: GO" as the subject in the email

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Mr. Lim, Rm 407 West City Plaza, 66 West Ave., Q.C.
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PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY HEALTH
Implemented by
Chemonics International Inc

(1) Field Implementation Coordinator – NCR & Batangas

Background:

The PRISM Project is geared towards increasing Family Planning initiatives in the private sector. It supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic objective 3, *desired family size and improved health sustainability achieved*. The project will focus on three components: (1) increased workplace support for family planning (FP) services and referrals; (2) establishment of viable, mass market brands of hormonal contraceptives, and, (3) increased business value of FP among private practice providers.

The project understands that a geographic approach using the strategic intervention plan (SIP) and its criteria will be essential in fast tracking its deliverables while prioritizing its areas and personnel to maximize its efforts and gains. Area-based planning and implementation is further seen as key to understanding the dynamics of the institutions and stakeholders in the identified areas. This is seen to lead to better results-based and output-oriented activities in aid of responsive project implementation. This is turn will purposively achieve our project goals and objectives.

To achieve this, we will be engaging Field Implementation Coordinators in the identified Strategic Intervention Areas (SIA). The FI Coordinator will be coordinating with the three area component personnel managers assigned accordingly, the technical resources specialists and the project management support group who will be underpinning the recognized plans and activities.

Objectives:

The FI Coordinator will be in-charge of harnessing the potential for installing a private sector initiative for family planning in the strategic intervention area namely National Capital Region (NCR) and the province of Batangas. He/she will concentrate on coming up with plans and activities as how family planning can be integrated in the workplace, thereby creating a demand. Then, through the development of the market (for oral and injectable contraceptives) as well as encouraging the private sector service providers, especially the midwives – become part of the supply that will service the generated demand. While doing this, he/she must be cognizant of and coordinate with the different PRISM components and harmonize the activities so that it will help achieve project deliverables.

General Tasks:

- Develop an overall PRISM strategic intervention area work plan together with the three component directors and the technical director;
- Initiate, organize and integrate activities of the three components in support of the overall area plans and objectives;
- Work with the different PRISM technical specialists on gender, monitoring and evaluation, outreach, training and quality assurance to ensure adequate support to our partners;
- Work with PRISM technical and management staff to implement approaches and strategies to counteract potential opposition to project activities from social forces such as faith-based groups;
- Refine the strategies mapped out in the work plan in order to maximize results from them; coordinate with the monitoring and evaluation specialist to validate indicators of success for the area program;
- Submit monthly updates/regular reports on activities, agreements and issues relating to the individual components as well as relating to the program as a whole (integrated/cross-cutting), including a monthly calendar of upcoming activities;
- Following the PRISM "work through" principle, help identify and assist potential project partners in their application for PRISM grants and in the implementation of the same;
- Liaises with relevant business, professional and civic organizations, private sector FP providers, USAID Cooperating Agencies, and local government units (LGUs) to forge partnerships for family planning initiatives;
- Coordinate regularly with our private and public sector liaison officers to aid support activities and initiatives to these sectors accordingly, and,
- Complete other tasks and assignments, as deemed appropriate.

Qualifications:

- College graduate
- Minimum of 3 years experience in liaising and dealing with the business sector, specifically with HR Managers, CEO of companies, healthcare organizations and service providers (doctor's groups, drugstores, midwives, nurses, etc.) organizing events
- Previous project management experience specifically in a health project is an advantage
- Very skilled in various computer applications
- Excellent communications skills
- Excellent organizational and analytical skills
- Physically fit as frequent travel is required between Manila and Batangas

Reporting:

The FI Coordinator will report directly to the Regional Operations Manager

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before July 15, 2007. Please indicate the "Position Code: FIC" as the subject in the email

PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY HEALTH
Implemented by
Chemonics International Inc

(1) Project Assistant

Position Description:

The Project Assistant provides technical, administrative and logistical support to the technical project team and coordinates and arranges project activities.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Work closely with the technical project team in planning, preparation and conduct of project's events/activities.
- Maintains technical and project- related files, including but not limited to communication logs, filing systems and budgets trackers.
- Prepares all technical project correspondences and reports, and facilitates communication between the project office, project partners and Chemonics' home office, as well as the USAID Mission.
- Develop presentations for various target groups, utilizing all available data in coordination with the technical project team.
- Prepare documentation in the conduct of project-related events/activities.
- Formats reports and presentation and assists in the production of these materials.
- Assist the project technical staff in arranging travel, hotel accommodations and customs expeditors for all project-related travel. S/he will also coordinate the logistics for all project events, including conferences and trainings.
- Coordinate the production and dissemination of project-related technical reports and materials.
- Coordinate communication among project technical team, project office, and Chemonics' Home Office.
- Prepared communication as directed by his/her immediate supervisor.
- Establish good working relations with project partners.
- Monitor inventory of projects technical reports and materials.

Qualifications:

- College graduate
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Works well even under pressure
- Three years of experience in technical, administrative support and logistics coordination acquired in an non-government or private organization
- Advance computer proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and MS Office

Reporting:

The Project Assistant will report directly to the Senior Technical Director who will be responsible for monitoring the Program Assistant's overall performance.

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before July 15, 2007. Please indicate the "Position Code: PA" as the subject in the email.

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The local affiliate of one of the largest assistance companies in the world is inviting aggressive, young and top-caliber applicants to join its Wellness division for the following positions:

❖ SALES SUPERVISOR

- ☑ Male or Female, must possess a Bachelor's Degree
- ☑ Oversee all daily activity of the Sales Agents, including: monitoring sales calls, providing new ideas to improve sales techniques and assessing the need for further technical and product training
- ☑ Provides leadership, motivation and development for Sales Team
- ☑ Must posses a high degree of integrity and accountability
- ☑ Sound decision-making skills and knowledge of products
- ☑ With at least 1-3 years of successful relevant supervisory experience

❖ SALES AGENTS

- ☑ Male or Female
- ☑ Must be a self starter and with high energy level
- ☑ Possess above-average interpersonal and communication skills
- ☑ Able to take initiative and manage time effectively
- ☑ Highly trainable, quick learner and has strong work ethic

Interested applicants may submit their resumé with recent picture, transcript of records and other pertinent credentials to:

Star Group Asia Management Inc.
9th Floor Rufino Plaza Bldg., 6784 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
E-mail: wellness@stargroupasia.biz

Mister Donut EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **PLANT MANAGER/PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR**
  - 25 to 40 years old; Engineering or Management graduate;
  - at least 2 yrs work experience directly managing subordinates/workers;
  - proficient in MS Excel spreadsheet reports;
  - cost control experience;
  - willing to handle night shift production;
  - preferably with experience in a food manufacturing environment
- **PLANNER/ANALYST (systems & logistics)**
  - 25-30 years old; BS Industrial Engineering graduate;
  - at least 2 yrs work experience;
  - with good analytical, interpersonal and communication skills;
  - proficient in MS Excel spreadsheet reports;
  - willing to work long hours.
- Potential areas of assignment: Baguio, Pangasinan, Pampanga, Metro Manila, Batangas, Laguna, Lucena, Mindoro, Naga City, Bacolod, Cebu, Iloilo, Tacloban, Zamboanga, Davao, Cagayan de Oro
- **CONTROLLER/DIRECTOR**
  - Accounting graduate, Certified Public Accountant;
  - not more than 45 years old;
  - must have at least 5 yrs finance/accounting experience in a managerial capacity (manufacturing firm experience an advantage);
  - has the ability to analyze financial data and prepare financial reports and statements
  - with high degree of organization, interpersonal and analytical skills

Qualified applicants are invited to send their resume, transcript of records and 2x2 picture to :

Ms. KAYE R. DALANGIN, Mister Donut – Human Resources,
80-82 A. Roces Ave., Quezon City
or e-mail at **kaye.dalangin@misterdonut.ph**

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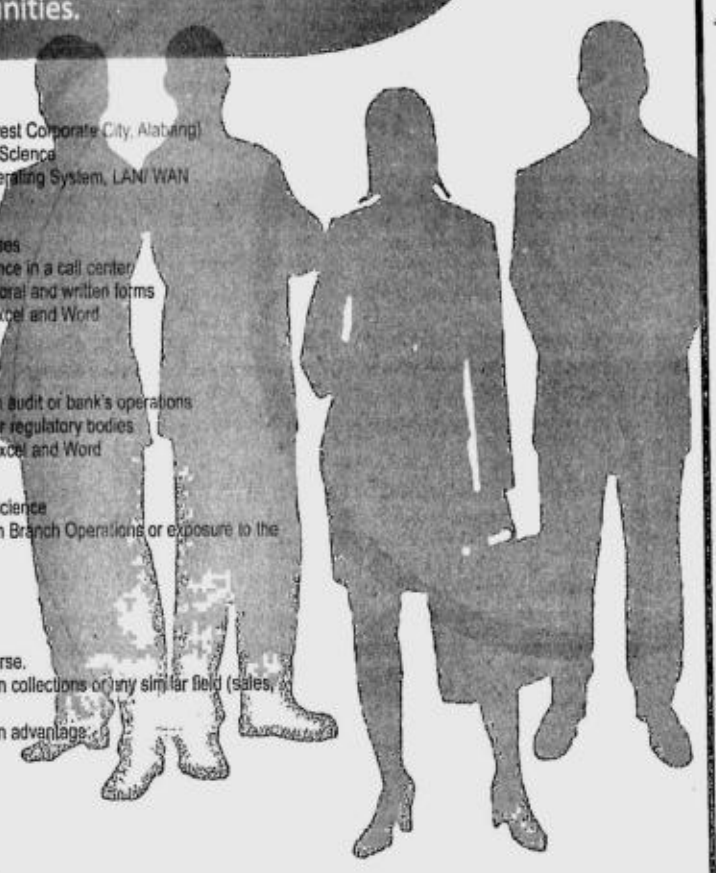

HEAD OFFICE REQUIREMENTS

ACCOUNT OFFICER (Corporate Banking Department, Commercial Banking Department, Consumer Lending Department, Branch Credit Division)
- Graduate of any Business-related course
- With at least three (3) years banking and/or marketing - related work experience
- With excellent communication and negotiation skills

CREDIT RISK OFFICER
- Graduate of Accounting or Economics
- With at least two (2) years experience in credit risk management
- With knowledge in drafting and formulating new credit policies and BASEL 2 provisions
- Must have aptitude in credit risk modeling

CREDIT RISK HEAD
- Graduate of Accounting or Economics
- With at least three (3) years experience in credit risk management
- With knowledge in drafting and formulating new credit policies and BASEL 2 provisions
- Must have aptitude in credit risk modeling

OPERATIONS RISK HEAD
- College Graduate, Accounting preferably CPA
- With at least three (3) years experience in Banking Operations, audit or risk management
- With background in basic finance, rules and regulations governing local banks and business continuity planning
- Computer literate

SYSTEMS ANALYST/OFFICER (Systems and Methods)
- Graduate of Management Industrial Engineering, Accounting, or any Business-related course
- With at least two (2) years experience in Systems Development and Methods and in productivity improvement projects, preferably Banking Operations, Loans, Treasury and Trust Operations and International Operations or Accounting
- With working knowledge in Microsoft Excel and Word
- Exposure to systems or audit work an advantage
- Must be keen on details and have an analytical mind
- With good oral and written communication skills

PROGRAMMER (Location : Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang)
- Graduate of IT / Computer Science
- With experience in developing Client /Server applications, SQL programming using Sybase/MS SQL
- Experience in using any of the following : PB / VB / ASP / PHP / Java

WEB DEVELOPER (Location : Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang)
- Graduate of Computer Science/IT
- With at least 3 years experience in application development
- With experience in using and operating in a W2K/Linux environment
- Possesses strong knowledge of data structures (such as stacks, arrays, hashes, etc.)
- Able to learn new programming languages quickly: ASP/VB/Java/PHP/Perl, HTML/DHTML/Javascript, MS-SQL/mySQL/PostgreSQL
- With experience in using ASP/Perl/PHP, writing CGI programs, programming in a W2K/Linux environment, and programming with any of the following languages: ASP/VB/Perl/PHP, C/C++, Java, HTML and SQL
- With experience in security and encryption, internet, standard development tools, and maintaining and de-bugging live systems
- Possesses in-depth technical knowledge of current hardware and operating systems

NETWORK ENGINEER (Location : Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang)
- Graduate of BS ECE / COE/ Computer Science
- With knowledge in Microsoft Office, Operating System, LAN/ WAN

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSISTANT
- Graduate of any Business-related courses
- With at least one (1) year work experience in a call center
- With excellent communications both in oral and written forms
- With working knowledge in Microsoft Excel and Word

FINANCIAL AUDIT SPECIALIST
- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- With at least one (1) year experience in audit or bank's operations
- Familiar with BSP regulations and other regulatory bodies
- With working knowledge in Microsoft Excel and Word

TRAINING ASSOCIATE
- Graduate of Psychology / Behavioral Science
- With at least one (1) year experience in Branch Operations or exposure to the Phoenix System an advantage.
- With excellent communication skills
- Computer literate

COLLECTION ASSOCIATE
- College Graduate of any four-year course.
- With at least one (1) year experience in collections or any similar field (sales, credit, customer service).
- Experience in credit card operations an advantage
- With good communication skills
- Computer literate

BRANCH REQUIREMENTS

BRANCH HEAD
- Graduate of any Business-related course
- Must have an excellent Marketing/ Sales track record and a very extensive network of clients
- With at least three (3) years banking-related work experience
- With excellent communication and negotiation skills
- Must be a dynamic and innovative leader who can motivate team members to perform to their fullest potentials

SERVICE HEAD
- Graduate of Accounting or any Business-related course
- With at least three (3) years experience in banking operations, including handling supervisory responsibilities

SALES OFFICER
- Graduate of any Business-related course
- With at least two (2) years work experience in sales or banking operations
- With excellent negotiation skills and pleasing personality

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATE (Teller)
SALES ASSOCIATE (New Accounts)
- Graduate of any Business-related course
- Work experience in marketing or banking operations an advantage

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resume, transcript of records and recent 2x2 color photo to:

HR - RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT
CORPORATE SUPPORT SERVICES GROUP
East West Banking Corporation
20TH Floor 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
E-mail: hr@eastwestbanker.com

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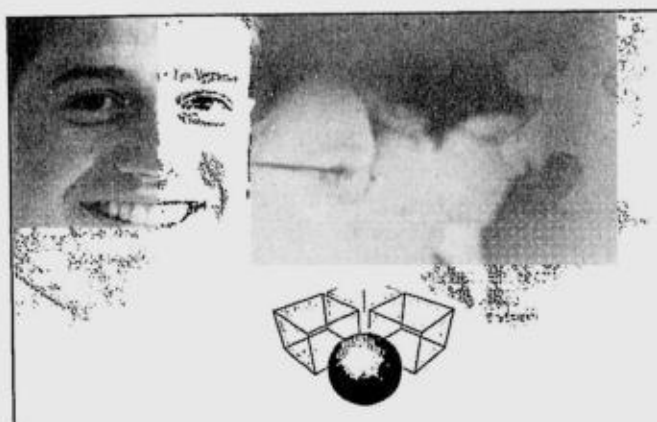

RENDITIONDIGITAL

RENDITION DIGITAL INC. is a provider of cost-effective software development and Digital Content Solutions to a wide range of clients in the business application, telecommunications, electronics and digital media markets.

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Project Managers (code: RD-PM)

- Should hold a degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or other related disciplines
- With at least three to five years of Project Management experience
- Knowledge in PMI framework
- Implemented project plans for small to medium scale projects
- Managed at least three projects with a minimum team size of five
- Systematic, organized and can effectively handle conflict resolution
- Has good leadership, decision-making and facilitation skills
- Can easily motivate and inspire people
- Must possess excellent communication skills
- Can adapt to a fast paced, multi-cultural environment

C/C++ Developers (code: RD-CD)

- Should hold a degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or other related disciplines
- With at least four to six years of development experience, two years of which must have been spent in a team lead capacity
- Deep understanding of MFC, COM, COM+ and ATL
- Strong OO analysis and development experience as well as testing experience ideally in the Unix environment
- Knowledge in Simple Network Management Protocol is a definite advantage
- Excellent written and oral English communication skills
- Analytical, results-oriented, dedicated and a team player
- Has the confidence to directly interface with both local and foreign clients
- Ability to work under pressure and tight deadlines
- A desire to travel to Europe if needed

Senior Customer Support Lead (code: RD-CSL)

- Should be a Bachelor's degree graduate in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or other related disciplines
- With at least one year experience in working on a lead role for a Technical Support Program
- Familiarity with travel reservation system technologies
- Excellent ability to plan and organize
- Ability to adapt between different work priorities
- Good leadership skills, particularly the ability to motivate people and promote teamwork
- Good problem solving and has keen attention to detail
- Excellent customer service, communication and interpersonal skills

Database Developer (code: RD-DD)

- Should be a Bachelor's degree graduate in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or other related disciplines
- With at least three to six years development and implementation experience
- Knowledgeable in Oracle 10g, PL-SQL, Sqlplus, SQL*Loader, Unix – Solaris including cron., and Bash Scripting
- Excellent written and oral English communication skills
- Analytical, results-oriented, dedicated and a team player
- Has the confidence to directly interface with both local and foreign clients
- Ability to work under pressure and tight deadlines
- A desire to travel to Europe if needed

Customer Support Analysts/Engineers (code: RD-CSAE)

- Bachelor's degree graduate in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or other related disciplines
- With at least one year experience in working for a Technical Support Program
- Support large-scale clustered UNIX environments with large database implementation with a complex Java-based architecture
- Excellent ability in planning and organizing
- Can adapt between different work priorities
- Has good problem solving skills
- Self starter with high level of initiative
- Excellent customer service and interpersonal skills

Senior Systems Support and Administration Engineer (code: RD-SSAE)

- Should hold a degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or other related disciplines
- With a minimum of five years commercial experience in a similar role preferably in a banking or financial institution
- Has adequate knowledge and background in Technical Support, HP-UX Administration, Oracle Administration, Unix shell scripting, J2EE Server / Apache administration and Subversion administration
- Excellent written and oral English communication skills
- Has the confidence to directly interface with both local and foreign clients

Java Software Engineers (code: RD-JSE)

- Should hold a degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or other related disciplines
- With at least three to six years of systems development and implementation experience in Java/J2EE. Experience must include client/server application, web based application development, and/or enterprise integration Application
- Proficient in J2EE Application Servers, jBoss, BEA Weblogic, Websphere
- Experience on mainstream RDBMS – SQL Server, Oracle, DB2
- Proficient in unit testing techniques and tools
- Excellent written and oral English communication skills
- Analytical, results-oriented, dedicated and a team player
- Has the confidence to directly interface with both local and foreign clients
- Ability to work under pressure and tight deadlines
- A desire to travel to Europe if needed

Desirable qualifications:
- SCJP
- Other advanced Java certifications

.Net Developer (code: RD-.ND)

- Degree graduate of any IT-related course
- Minimum of two years in .Net programming work
- Must have knowledge in UML, C# and ASPX
- Should have experience in complete SDLC
- Knowledge in unit and component testing is required
- Flexible, analytical, result-driven and organized
- Good communication skills

Senior Database Administrator (code: RD-SDA)

- Should at least possess a Bachelor's/College Degree or Post Graduate Diploma/ Master's Degree in Computer Science/Information Technology or equivalent.
- With at least three to five solid years of database administration experience using Oracle (v.8i,9i,10g,11i). PL/SQL and shell scripting; knowledge in MS SQL (v.7/2000) and UDB DB2 is a definite advantage
- Extensive background in DB admin/back-up/restore, DB tuning, replication, relational DB design
- Basic knowledge on Forms and Oracle Reports Deployment in Linux and Windows environment is a plus
- Analytical, results-oriented and a team player
- Ability to handle multiple projects with varying priorities in a fast paced environment
- Excellent communication and documentation skills

Business Analyst (code: RD–BA)

- Should hold a degree in Communication Arts or other related disciplines
- With at least two to three years experience in business analysis and/or technical writing, ideally familiar with computer software or hardware documentation (programmers' guide, user guides, reference manuals, etc.)
- Knowledgeable in UML
- Has adequate experience in client facilitation and presentation
- Flexibility to work within a cross-cultural team
- Ability to assimilate new knowledge rapidly
- Excellent written and oral English communication skills
- Analytical, results-oriented, dedicated and a team player
- Has the confidence to directly interface with both local and foreign clients
- Ability to work under pressure and tight deadlines

Test Engineers (code: RD-TE)

- Should hold a degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or other related courses
- With a minimum of five years experience in J2EE and GUI testing
- With exposure in QA Management and web services testing
- Knowledge in automated testing is a plus
- Proficient in creating test plan, cases and script, performance testing
- Has strong skill background in Oracle 10g, Spring, maven, ant, Selenium, SOAP/Http, SQL
- Excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Excellent analytical and problem solving skills
- Ability to work under pressure and tight deadlines
- With initiative, enthusiasm and keen eye on details
- Creative - should be able to test outside the test scripts - Ad hoc
- Has the confidence to directly interface with both local and foreign clients

Senior Java/Web Services Developer (code RD-WSD)

- Should hold a graduate degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or other related disciplines
- With at least five years of development experience
- Has adequate experience in Database design, ESB and SOA Design
- Proficient in Enterprise Integration Patterns, Webservices Basic & Extended Standards, Webservices Orchestration, BPM, BPEL, SOAP, Http, J2EE Design Patterns, Hibernate/SQL, Spring 2.0, Commercial ESB, JMS, tibco, Spring, MVC/Webflow, JSP, Templating Engines (Velocity, Freemarker), Ajax, Java Script, and Tag libraries (JSTL,DisplayTag)
- Excellent written and oral English communication skills
- Has the confidence to directly interface with both local and foreign clients

Graphic Designers / Flash Engineers (code: RD-GD/FE)

- Should hold a degree in Fine Arts, Multimedia Arts or any related disciplines
- With at least a year experience in the same field
- Background in web development, design, print, publishing or animation
- Advanced Knowledge on Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Pagemaker, Illustrator and Macromedia Flash
- Knowledge in Action scripting for flash
- Knowledge in In-design, QuarkExpress, FrameMaker and other
- Desktop Publishing tools is an advantage
- Particular to details and process oriented
- Ability to work under pressure
- Good English communication skills

Test Manager (code: RD-TM)

- Should have a BS/BA degree in Computer Science, Engineering, MIS or other related disciplines
- Experience with testing high-volume transaction-based websites deployed in a server farm
- With at least five years of software testing experience
- Should have more than three years working in a process-oriented development environment (RUP, Agile, etc.)
- Must have an extensive experience with automated test tool software (e.g., Mercury Interactive's WinRunner or QuickTest Professional) and test plan management software (e.g., Mercury Interactive's Test Director or Quality Center)
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Superior problem solving skills, proven team player, and ability to multi-task
- With a proven ability to quickly and creatively assess and resolve issues relating workload balancing of staff and handling of critical quality issues

Interested applicants are invited to either send a soft copy of their CVs to: humanresources@renditiondigital.com or mail their comprehensive resume to:
Human Resource Department 15th Floor Multinational Bancorp Center,
6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Please indicate the position code on the subject line

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IT Professionals Needed

MBTC Technology, Inc. was formed in 1995 to provide information-based solutions and services to the Metrobank Group of Companies. It is now aggressively recruiting IT professionals for major projects of its clients.

Mainframe Programmer/Analysts

Bachelor's degree and with 3 to 5 years experience in applications development particularly in mainframe environment

Preference given to candidates who are able to work in any of these environments: OS/390, JES2, CICS and MVS COBOL; and background in Banking (Systematics): GN/TS, IM, ST, FMS, CL, RM; or Credit card: (Sema) CardLinK: CIA, CA, CC, APS, CM, CEDC, CHSMI, EI; Visa; Mastercard

Additional qualifications include experience in systems analysis and design

Windows, UNIX or LINUX Programmer/Analysts

Bachelor's degree and with 3 to 5 years experience in applications development particularly in client-server and internet environment

Candidates must be proficient in VB 6/ VB .NET and ASP/ ASP.Net and Java programming. Knowledge in any of these database platforms is also a plus: MS SQL Server 7.0/2000, Oracle 8i/9i

Experience in systems analysis and design is preferred

Software Test Analysts

Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 4 years experience in supporting computer application systems, either as a developer or as a business or test analyst

Preference given to candidates with experience in Software Testing Methodology

Additional qualifications include experience with the mainframe environment and familiarity with banking applications

Project Manager

Bachelor's degree with at least two (2) major projects implemented as a Project Manager

Candidates must have background and experience in organizational management, development of a detailed project program, project management methodology, and project coordination preferably in banking or other financial institution

Candidates must possess strong organizational skills, excellent written and oral communication skills and a demonstrated ability to work effectively in teams

Interested applicants may email their resumes to careers@mbtc-tech.com or submit them to HRMD, MBTC Technology, Inc., 17th Floor, PSB Center, 777 Paseo de Roxas cor. Sedeño St., Makati City

Isuzu Philippines Corporation

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TECHNICAL TRAINER (Code: DND-01)

* Male, B.S. Mechanical Engineering graduate, licensed engineer
* With 3-5 years experience in the automotive industry
* Excellent communication and presentation skills
* Knowledgeable in training module preparation
* Customer oriented
* With Professional Driver's License

TECHNICAL ENGINEER (Code: CBD-01)

* Male, Licensed B.S. Mechanical/Electrical Engineering graduate
* With at least 3 years work experience in the automotive industry
* Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
* Customer oriented
* Expertise in the mechanical and electrical aspects of vehicle repairs
* With Professional Driver's License

TECHNICIAN (Code: DND-02)

* Male, Automotive Technology graduate
* 25-30 years old
* With at least 2 years work experience in the automotive industry
* Customer oriented
* Expertise in the mechanical and electrical aspects of vehicle repairs
* With Professional Driver's License

You may submit your application letter (with code) and resume at
114 Technology Ave., Phase 2,
Laguna Technopark Incorporated, Biñan, Laguna 4024
or e-mail/fax at
hrs@isuzuphil.com/02-6700-1196

Deadline for submission is on Friday, July 13, 2007
Competitive compensation and benefits package awaits successful applicants.

Kolipri is a leading edge technology company developing innovative, easy to use and practical communications services

Kolipri Communications Inc., is offering challenging tasks in a professional, international and exciting atmosphere with inspiring co-workers. Kolipri invites you to join our development team based in Alabang, Metro Manila.

SOFTWARE ENGINEERS

Main tasks:
- Programming of communication services and applications

Expertise requirements:
- Good knowledge in C++ and/or Java
- IP and Linux knowledge considered a plus
- At least 1 year experience on programming
- Good English communication skills
- Team-oriented working skills

Please apply and submit your application to Kolipri Communications Inc., 8th Flr. NOL Tower, Commerce Avenue, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, or you can email careers@kolipri.com or visit at www.kolipri.com/careers

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Join a multinational workforce of Medical experts in K.S.A.

IMC is a 300-bed multi-specialty hospital with several Centers of Excellence including Children's Health, Diabetes, Musculoskeletal Health and Pain & Headache Management in partnership with the **Cleveland Clinics, USA.**

- **NURSES / MEDICAL STAFF**
- **MEDICAL TECHS.**
- EMG / ECG / ECHO / CSSD TECHS.
- RADIOLOGY TECHS.
- MED-TRANSCRIPTIONISTS
- RT / PT
- MIDWIVES
- REFLEXOLOGISTS
- (M/F) SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS

All candidates must have at least 2 yrs. experience in a 200 beds hospital.

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- Degree in Psychology, Industrial Engineering or any Behavioral Science course, with minimum of 2 years related work experience
- Well versed in all facets of HR functions in a unionized set-up
- Background in ISO operations and has superior verbal, written and negotiation skills

PLANNER
- Minimum of 2 years related experience, with background in Lean Manufacturing and ISO operations, familiarity with J.I.T./Demand Flow Concepts
- With excellent understanding of BOM Structure and implications for material flow of changes in specifications, Time and Motion Study and Methods Standardization
- Degree in Industrial, Civil and Mechanical Engineering, not more than 30 years old

QA ENGINEERS
- Degree in Chemical, Industrial or Mechanical Engineering, with knowledge in TQM, use of QC tools and background in an ISO certified firms
- Trained in process planning, process control and quality control procedures
- Computer literate with good communication skills and has exposure in a unionized setting

QUANTITY SURVEYORS (Quezon City Office)
- Degree in Architecture or Civil Engineering with background in handling cutting lists in cabinetry works
- MS Excel proficient and with excellent conceptualization skills

SALES ASSOCIATES (Quezon City Office)
- Degree in Architecture or Interior Design, with pleasing personality and below 24 years old
- Aggressive and resourceful, fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- Excellent communication skills and can relate well with residential clients

Updated resume with 2x2 photo and landline should be sent through email at **schan@gracepark.com.ph.** Please indicate POSITION TITLE as the subject. For walk-in applicants, please proceed to GRACE PARK INTERNATIONAL, INC. located at 2 MBF Compound Lawang Bato, Valenzuela City and look for Rina. For Quezon City Office, please proceed to GRACEWOOD at 11 Granada St. corner Castilla St, Quezon City and look for Noemi

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(Part-time/Full-time)

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- Preferably with Teaching or Call Center experience
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Look for: Ms. Athnea La Puebla or Mr. Gilbert dela Vega
Contact No.: 0928-5056891 or 0917-8308428
Office hrs.: Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 6:00 pm.
E-mail your updated CV to: athnea18@yahoo.com or gdzarro@mscorp.com.ph

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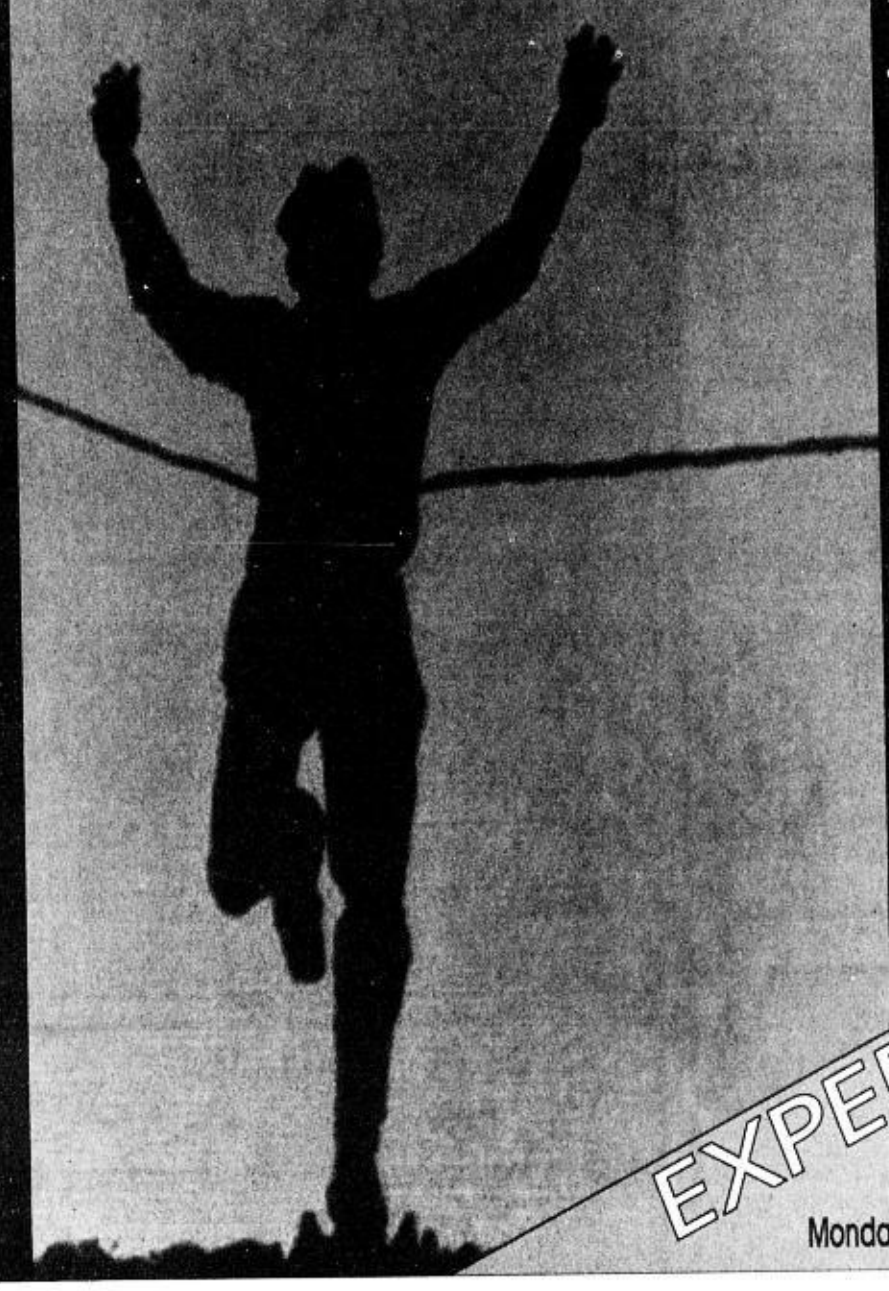

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Republic of the Philippines
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Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Japan Social Development Fund Social Inclusion Project (JSDF-SIP) is a complementary Grant facility of the KALAHI-CIDSS-KKB Project. It aims to empower the poorest and most vulnerable groups in KALAHI-CIDSS areas (indigenous peoples, conflict-affected communities and women) to overcome identified constraints to their genuine representation and active participation.

To facilitate the evaluation of Project results midway through the implementation of JSDF-SIP, the National Project Management Office (NPMO) shall engage the services of a Midterm Evaluation Consultant and a Process Documentation Specialist.

MIDTERM EVALUATION CONSULTANT

Work Objectives:

1) Assess overall Project performance as regards its objectives, performance indicators and target outputs midway through Project life;
2) Assess the effectiveness of existing project management arrangements at the national, regional and community level in addressing overall project objectives;
3) Based on the Project Typology, evaluate the effectiveness of approved community proposals in addressing the participation constraints of indigenous peoples, conflict-affected communities, and women as identified in the Participatory Assessment (PA) Study and PA Validation workshops through desk review of approved proposals, progress reports, reflection session documentation and other relevant documents;
4) Evaluate the effectiveness of the nationally managed SIP Training Plan for LGUs, community representatives and field implementers in complementing the capacity-building requirements of community proposals and in engaging the participation of LGUs in improving participatory local governance;
5) Evaluate the relevance of activities and timeframes set by the Project Multi-Year Plan and Logical Framework, and make necessary recommendations and revisions based on the findings of the study.

Qualifications:

1. Masters degree in the Social Sciences
2. At least 10 years of progressive experience in project management, 5 years of which should have been devoted in Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME)
3. Proven track record in conducting evaluation research, including the development of research methodologies and tools
4. Professional exposure to development-oriented projects of international funding institutions, government agencies or non-government organizations
5. Experience working with indigenous peoples (IPs), conflict-affected communities and rural women
6. Capacity to mobilize a team of researchers that may be required in order to finish the study on time
7. Excellent writing and speaking skills in English and Filipino; proficiency in any regional language an advantage

Duration of Engagement. 01 August-15 October 2007

PROCESS DOCUMENTATION SPECIALIST

Work Objectives:

1) Formulate a process documentation work plan containing information such as timeframe and budget requirements to be presented to the JSDF-SIP Unit National Work Group (NWG).
2) Conduct desk review of project design, community proposals, and other relevant documents;
3) Conduct verification activities such as interviews or review of secondary information required for the development of case/technical reports;
4) Write technical/case reports and identify sub themes and innovations focused on the project components:
   - Preparation and review of community proposals;
   - Implementation of community proposals;
   - LGU engagement;
   - Generation and dissemination of lessons learned; and
   - Project management.
5) Observe municipal and regional activities (e.g. meetings, assessment workshops, etc.) to gather/verify information relevant to the process documentation task if necessary; and
6) Present outputs to JSDF-SIP Unit and NWG.

Qualifications:

1. Masters degree in Development Communication, Mass Communication or Communication Arts;
2. At least six (6) years of progressive experience in process documentation, research and technical writing, or communication work;
3. Proven track record in conducting process documentation, research and case report writing;
4. Professional exposure to development-oriented projects of international funding institutions, government agencies or non-government organizations;
5. Experience working with LGUs, Indigenous Peoples (IPs), conflict-affected communities and rural women;
6. Excellent writing and speaking skills in English and Filipino; proficiency in any regional language an advantage.

Duration of Engagement: 01 August - 30 December 2007

Interested Applicants shall submit written **Expression of Interest (1-page), Curriculum Vitae, and List of References to The Chairperson, DSWD-Bids and Awards Committee, 2nd floor, DSWD Central Office, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone number 931-8101/ 951-71-16 (Fax), e-mail: bacsec@dswd.gov.ph; dswdbacsec@yahoo.com, jsdf_sip@yahoo.com until July 16, 2007 at 12:00 PM. Short-listed applicants will be required to present sample works.**

(SGD.) FLORITA R. VILLAR
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson BAC

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ENDOSCOPY NURSES, female
PICU NURSES, female
SURGICAL NURSES, male/female
OB/GYN NURSES, female
NICU NURSES, female
OPTOMETRIST, female
OPTICIAN, male

DR. SIDDIQA HOSPITAL – KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

NURSING DIRECTOR, female
NICU NURSES, female
OR NURSES, female
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LABORATORY TECHNICIAN, male
X-RAY TECHNICIAN, female
DIETICIAN, female

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Fax: 4129776
Contact: Ashlyn / Vivian

In MANILA:
2nd floor, Harbor Center II Building
Chicago corner Railroad Sts.,
South Harbor, Port Area, Manila
Tel: 5279980 loc 627 or 433
Fax: 3159146
Contact: Flor / John/ Donna

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ELECTRIC MOTOR REPAIRMAN
ELECTRICAL ESTIMATOR
ELECTRICIAN PROCUREMENT OFFICER
ELECTRICIAN
HEAVY DUTY DRIVER (TRAILER)
HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS
HVAC SITE ENGINEERS
INSTRUMENT TECHNICIAN
LABORERS
LAND SURVEYORS
MATERIAL CONTROLLER/STOREKEEPER
MATERIAL COORDINATOR/ENGINEER
MECHANIC HELPERS
MECHANICAL ENGINEER
MECHANICAL ESTIMATOR
MECHANICAL REPAIRMAN – pumps/turbines/compressors
MILLWRIGHT
PAINTING & COATING INSPECTOR
PIPE FABRICATOR
PIPE FITTER
PIPING ENGINEER
PIPING FOREMAN
PIPING SUPERVISORS-MECHANICAL
QC CIVIL ENGINEER
QC HVAC/PLUMBING
QC MECHANICAL PIPING
QC MECHANICAL WELDING
QA/QC MANAGER/SUPERVISOR
QUANTITY SURVEYOR- EQUIPMENT
QUANTITY SURVEYOR - PLUMBING
QUANTITY SURVEYOR - PIPING
QUANTITY SURVEYOR ENGINEER - CIVIL, ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL
RIGGER
SAFETY OFFICER/SUPERVISOR/UNIT HEAD
SCAFFOLDERS
SCAFFOLDING SUPERVISOR/INSPECTOR
SCC ENGINEERS
SR. PROCUREMENT ENGINEER - ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL
SR. HVAC DESIGN ENGINEER
STEEL ERECTORS
WELDERS
STEAM/CHEMICAL CLEANING WORKER
COATER SANDBLASTER
WELDER SS ELEC/GAS
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STEVEDORING FOREMAN/SUPERVISORS
FORKLIFT OPERATORS
CRANE / WINCH OPERATORS
DOCKER'S STEVEDORING FOREMAN
PROJECT CONTROL ENGINEERING/MANAGER
MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN
ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN
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We are in dire need of highly trained prof. who is willing to respond to the call of SERVICE...

Wanted:

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Qualifications:

- 25 to 34 years old
- W/ 4 yrs. or more related exp. in fund raising, marketing, product/ brand mgmt., advocacy, advertising/promotions, events management
- Good communication skills
- Writes bus. correspondence better than ave. English grammar, good public speaker
- Excellent work attitude
- Highly motivated, can work w/ min. supervision, can work long hrs. when needed, resourceful & creative w/ leadership skills or potential
- Computer literate
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Please fax your resume at 563-9306
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RACO Trading Group of Companies
is in need of an

ASSISTANT COMMODITY TRADER

who will assist the General Manager
in the daily international trading of
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Qualifications:

- Male or female, 25-40 years of age
- College graduate from leading institutions
- Good command of spoken and written English is a must
- Outgoing, personable and willing to work long hours
- Computer skills is a plus factor
- Ideally, but not necessarily, with 2-3 years related experience in similar field of endeavor, with some knowledge on the coconut oil and related industry

Please send resumé and transcript of records with latest 2x2 photo to:

The General Manager
Raco Trading Phils., Inc.
10th Floor, Rufino Plaza Building
6784 Ayala Avenue
Makati City
Tel. Nos. 8100301-02 - 8175461

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

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account executive. You may, in all actuality, be a fresh graduate with a curriculum vitae that demonstrates your untrained passion for strategy and creativity. You may also have some background in theatre and animal husbandry, but we won't take that against you.

Interested applicants may email their resumes with photo at **hrd.sparks@gmail.com** or mail it to unit 3D 8101 Pearl Plaza, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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Requirements:
- Great communication skills
- Knowledge in basic arithmetic
- MS Excel and words proficient
- Superior follow-up skills
- Effective interpersonal skills
- Pleasing personality

Qualifications:
- Male/Female
- Not more than 30 years old
- Bachelor's degree in Business or Marketing preferred
- 3-5 years telemarketing/sales experience
- Ability to speak Chinese, though not essential would be an advantage

Interested applicant may apply personally or send resumé to:

G/F Triplex Building
2255 Chino Roces Avenue
(formerly Pasong Tamo St.), Makati City
Look for Ms. Julie Buen

Or you may send resumé thru email at:
inquiries@triplexpaper.com.ph
julie@triplex.com.ph

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- At least five (5) years working experience with Marine industry, QA/QC, or have worked in the shipyard and/or in the ship management.

Fully qualified candidates are most welcome to apply. Salary and perks commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Please submit your complete curriculum vitae with photo at:

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Attn : Administration Dept. or
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The applicant must be between 21-25 years of age, a college graduate preferably in Management and/or Marketing or any other business related course. He/She must have at least one (1) year hands-on experience in store operations and customer relations. He/She must have strong leadership potential and with excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

You may email your comprehensive resumé to **rrb_retiro2000@yahoo.com.ph** or apply in person with passport-sized photo on July 10, 12, & 13, 2007 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 nn at:

Red Ribbon Bakeshop – Retiro Branch
G/F Edificio Enriqueta
422 N.S. Amoranto St., (formerly Retiro)
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- Sweeping of transmission lines used in telecommunications.

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- Have worked in the telecommunications industry for at least three years; have experience in using telecoms instruments such as spectrum analyser, data communication analyser, BER tester, sweeping gear, PIMS etc.
- Must be computer literate and know how to use the MS office software.
- Must be able to drive a car and must have current driver's license.
- Proactive, team player, good interpersonal skills.
- Willing and able to work long hours.

If the above interests you then please submit applications to - VASP Group HR Manager, Suite 212, Building A, 20 Lexington Drive, Bella Vista, 2153, NSW, Australia or email vasp@vasp.com.au by July 29 2007. Applicants will be informed for personal interview by an employer representative in Manila and will be asked to bring current driver's license and valid passport.

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General Requirements:
1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation with at least one letter written by the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous Training Programs (duplicate letters or photocopies will not be accepted)
5. Four (4) pcs 2" x 2" colored picture

Please address your communications to:
ARISTIDES G. PANLILIO, M.D.
Department Manager II
The Department of Education, Training and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela O. Rivera or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia with Tel. Nos. 925-24-01 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

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SALES & MARKETING OFFICER
► Must be a graduate of Business Mgmt., Marketing or any related course ► At least 3 yrs. exp. in related field ► Has good communication and interpersonal skills ► not more than 40 y/o

PROJECT ARCHITECT/ENGINEER
► Must be at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Eng'g (Civil), Architecture/Urban Studies or equivalent ► At least 2 yrs of working experience in the related field ► Computer proficient and knowledgeable in Autocad and MS applications ► not more than 40 y/o

URBAN PLANNER/HEAD ARCHITECT
► Minimum qualification of Degree or Professional License in Architecture/Urban Studies or equivalent ► At least 5 year(s) of working experience in the related field ► Must be able to work independently and coordinate with Project Manager on project matters ► Must have good knowledge of project planning ► Required skill: PRIMAVERA, AUTOCAD, MS OFFICE ► Good command in both spoken and written English ► Not more than 40 y/o

PROJECT MANAGER
► Minimum qualification of Degree or Professional License in Civil / Struct'l Eng'g. or equivalent ► Good command in both spoken and written English ► Should have more than 5 yrs. experience in Proj. Mgmt and Gen. Construction ► Not more than 40 y/o

Interested individuals may submit their resumés with picture not later than 11 July 2007 to PRIMESTATE VENTURES INC. ► 5th floor 136 Malakas St. Diliman, Q.C. ► 925-3301 to 08 / 926-8037 ► or email to primestateventures@yahoo.com.ph

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email your resumé with 2x2 picture at **bebet@smjf.com.ph**

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- ☑ Candidate must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/ Management/Economics or its equivalent.
- ☑ Aggressive, result-driven and customer-service oriented.
- ☑ Sound analytical abilities and strong organizational skills.
- ☑ With at least 1-4 years of relevant experience garnered from the Insurance, Healthcare and Wellness Industries.
- ☑ Preferably supervisory or junior management position specializing in Marketing and Business Development.

❖ SALES EXECUTIVES
- ☑ Responsible for the implementation of the company's sales strategies in acquiring new customers and expanding the current business relationships with existing clients.
- ☑ Responsible for the attainment of the Company's sales objectives within the assigned target market.
- ☑ Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a firm background in Sales & Marketing or its equivalent.
- ☑ Must have a proven track record in achieving sales targets.
- ☑ Must have above-average communication and written skills.
- ☑ With 1-4 years relevant sales experience garnered from the Insurance, Healthcare and Assistance industries.
- ☑ Able to demonstrate effective selling skills, aggressiveness, good judgment, initiative and must be results-oriented.

❖ OPERATIONS COORDINATORS
- ☑ Male or Female not more than 32 years old
- ☑ Preferably a graduate of any allied medical course. Fresh graduates/Entry level applicants are encouraged to apply.
- ☑ Excellent interpersonal links and communication skills
- ☑ Willing to be assigned on a shifting work schedule.
- ☑ Confident, hardworking, assertive and can work under pressure
- ☑ Computer Literate

❖ MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
- ☑ Male or Female not more than 25 years old
- ☑ Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Business Studies/Administration/Management, Sales & Marketing, Finance/Accountancy/Banking, Commerce or equivalent.
- ☑ Must belong to upper 20% of graduating class.
- ☑ Must have a genuine interest in building a career in the Insurance, Healthcare and Wellness industries.
- ☑ With exceptional communication skills, outstanding leadership potential and very people/customer-oriented.
- ☑ Proficient in computer operations.
- ☑ Can deal and work with different personalities.
- ☑ Proactive, thrives in demanding environment.
- ☑ Fresh graduates/Entry level applicants are encouraged to apply.

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In compliance with the provisions of RA 7041, the **Social Marketing Service of the Department of Social Welfare and Development has a vacant Director III position, Salary Grade 27,** with the following qualification requirements:

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Interested applicants may submit their application and comprehensive resume with 2 x 2 ID picture to the Undersecretary for Operations and Capacity Building, DSWD, Constitution Hills, Batasan Complex, Quezon City on or before July 13, 2007.

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RMTU, Mondriaan Aura College hold 3rd Candle-Lighting, Capping and Pinning Ceremonies

RAMON MAGSAYSAY TECHNOLOGICAL University (RMTU) of Iba, Zambales and Mondriaan Aura College of Subic Bay Freeport Zone School of Nursing recently held their 3rd Candle-Lighting, Capping and Pinning Ceremonies and 1st Pinning Ceremony of Aura Practical Nursing Course at the Olongapo City Convention Center.

Mary Ann V. Casupanan,RN,MAN, Ph.D., campus director, Bataan Peninsula State University and Governor of PNA Region 3 keynoted the ceremonies.

Highlighting the ceremonies was the presentation of student-candidates led by Dr. Editha Barrera Geniza, Mondriaan Aura College's executive vice president.

Maria Charina Casupanan, RN, MAN, Mondriaan Aura College BSN academic coordinator reenacted the symbolic and traditional candle-lighting ceremony. The ceremony was a tribute accorded to Florence Nightingale for her amazing contributions to the nursing profession. Relived in this reenactment was Nightingale's benevolence as manifested in the symbolic lighting of the Nightingale Lamp, a sacred lamp that was expressive of her commitment in tending the sick through the night. The Nightingale Pledge led by Coralyn Castillejos, RN followed after.

Pastor Jose Danoog, Mondriaan Aura College's psychology professor led the Prayer of Dedication for the future nurses while Dr. Domingo Edano, RMTU director for higher education gave a reassuring insight to generate and strengthen the vision for the student-candidates' tomorrow through his opening remarks. The RMTU and Mondriaan Aura College presidents Drs. Feliciano Rosete (represented by Dr. Thelma Q. Meer, RMTU vice president for academic affairs) and Edgar G. Geniza, delivered their respective special messages.

Richard Domondon, one of the BSN candidates was recognized in the ceremonies for getting the highest score in the Nursing Battery Test.

The ceremonies were concluded by a tribute to the parents and loved ones of the candidates by way of visual presentation. In this tribute, the student-candidates and their respective parents and guardians were honored for having courageously gone this far in the students' career preparation. The candidates were further challenged to continue being instruments of nurturing the poor and the needy as well as tools of God towards His vision of a compassionate society.

Other administrators, staff and guests present were Armando Santos, HR Head, Mondriaan Aura College, Ms. Dyna Escobar, RN, RMTU Presidential Assistant On Local and International Linkages in Nursing, Dean Rene Pudadera, RN,MAN, Teresita Gumatay,RN,Chief Nurse, Mariveles Mental Hospital,Ruby Duave,RN, Chief Nurse, San Marcelino District Hospital, Relia Villegas , RN , Training Officer, Dr. Engie Domondon, RN, MAN, MD., Eloisa Rosapapan, RN, MAN, Marites Rosapapan,RN, Shirley Diroy,RN,MAN, Mary Grace Buenaobra,RN, Ared June Mauricio,RN, Narciso Tubera, Jr. , RN, Adviser of Practical Nursing Course, Virgilio Opulento, RN, Ludivina Carballo, Guidance Counselor, Edmar Ancheta, Ynigo Geniza, Head, MAC Computer Center, April Coll, Elisa Menor, MAEd, Roel Dimalanta, MAEd, Albert Layug, MBA, Leo Eusantos, MAHR, James O'Briant and Teatro Gat'Aitab.

'Hot jobs' in Metro Manila

AMIDST LABOR SURPLUS, LARGE enterprises in the country's premier region experienced shortage of skills ranging from high-end positions such as accountants, engineers, and IT-based occupations to blue-collar jobs such as welders, drivers, and skilled laborers.

Citing a survey of the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES), Labor Secretary Arturo D. Brion said that large firms in Metro Manila have encountered shortage of qualified applicants over the last three years. This is not the first time that these results became evident as the March 2006 Jobs Summit and the 2007 National Human Resource Conference both pointed to the same results.

Brion said the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES) survey identified the hot jobs in the talent shortage list in Metro Manila, adding that the survey revealed the kind of skills that industry requires not only in the prime region but nationwide.

Hot jobs are those that are highly in-demand and hard-to-fill due to lack or shortage in qualified applicants.

The labor secretary advised students and young workers to set their sights on acquiring the necessary skills and qualifications to fill the hot jobs immediately not only for their own benefit but also that of business and industry and the economy as a whole.

The BLES survey covered 448 large enterprises in Metro Manila. The samples were drawn from the list of the country's top 5,000 enterprises. Data collection was conducted from January to March as a rider questionnaire to the 4th quarter 2006 labor turn over survey.

The survey indicated that nearly one in three enterprises experienced talent or skill shortage. About 136 or 30.3% of the 448 respondents experienced shortage of qualified applicants in certain occupations in the last three years. Majority of them were engaged in wholesale and retail trade (31.1%) and manufacturing (28.2%). The rest were spread out thinly across sectors.

The occupations in the talent shortage list which appeared common across industries were as follows: accountant, computer programmer, engineer, financial analyst, HRD manager, IT technician, lawyer, manager, nurse, and sales/marketing representative.

OFWs to get P2.4 million in back wages from Guam-based firm

TWENTY-FIVE OVERSEAS FILIpino workers (OFWs) who had worked in Guam received more than P2.4 million in back wages after the U.S. labor office established that the OFWs' employer failed to pay them full wages for overtime work.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said that Saipan-based Labor Attache Lourdes Lavilla received 25 checks totaling US$53,123.87 (more than P2.4 million) from Senior Investigator Richard Hamilton of the United States Department of Labor's (DOL) Wage and Hour Division office in Saipan.

Brion said the amount represented the back wages of 25 OFWs who were employed by the Bascon Corporation and Orion Construction Corporation based in Guam.

He said the American DOL personnel in Guam conducted investigations and found that Bascon and Orion failed to fully pay the OFWs for their overtime work.

He expressed appreciation for the DOL's investigations that resulted in the payments, saying it is a very encouraging indication of the kind of support a host country gives to OFWs.

Hawaii-based DOL Assistant District Director Terrence J. Trotter has requested for the assistance of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in the U.S. and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) for the distribution of the back wages due the 25 OFWs.

Brion said the DOL in Hawaii has been working with POEA for similar undertakings and also would like to course the distribution of the OFWs' back wages through the agency. The checks are scheduled to reach POEA by third week of July.

Regional growth areas, industrial sectors contribute to employment growth

FIVE REGIONS AND FIVE SECTORS IN THE country generated substantial employment growth in April 2007 based on the latest Labor Force Survey (LFS) of the National Statistics Office (NSO).

The April 2007 round of the LFS indicated that total employment in the country grew by 1.007 million from 32.699 million in the same period in 2006 to 33.706 million in April 2007.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said that the regions accounting for the highest employment gains are as follows:

– Region III or Central Luzon (+191,000 to 3.432 million in April 2007 from 3.241 million in April 2006);

– Region IV-A or CALABARZON representing Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon (+125,000 to 4.073 million from 3.948 million);

– Region VII or Central Visayas (+105,000 to 2.627 million from 2.522 million);

– Region IX or Zamboanga Peninsula (+96,000 to 1.314 million from 1.218 million); and,

National Capital Region or NCR (+91,000 to 3.988 million from 3.897 million).

Altogether, the increments in the five regions contributed around 60.3 percent (608,000) of the entire 1.007 million new employment created in the country's economy in April 2007.

Brion, in the meantime, cited a preliminary report of the Bureau of Local Employment (BLE) that 115,775 persons have been placed in jobs as a result of placement assistance facilitated by Public Employment Service Offices across the country in the first quarter of 2007.

The BLE indicated that the 115,775 included those placed in jobs under the regular program (109,340); poor students under the Special Program for the Employment of Students or SPES (683); out-of-school youth under the Work Appreciation Program or WAP (526); persons-with-disabilities under the Tulong Alalay sa Taong May Kapansanan or TULAY program (217); displaced workers (561); returning overseas Filipino workers (75); migratory workers (2,347); and rural workers (2,026).

The job placements are complemented by the following highlights:

– A total of 232 jobs fairs have been conducted by the PESOs nationwide during the first quarter of 2007 in coordination with 150 local government units, 14 private institutions, and 68 schools, assisting a total of 108,606 applicants, with 5,500 hired on-the-spot.

– Significantly, a total of 1,027 career guidance thrusts have also been accomplished, benefiting 148,360 students in 777 schools, colleges and universities across the nation.

PMAP workshop set on July 23 and 24

THE PEOPLE MANAGEMENT ASSOciation of the Philippines-Human Resource Management Development Center (PMAP-HRMDC) will be conducting a two-day workshop on "Becoming an Employer of Choice." This would be held at EDSA Shangri-La Hotel from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on July 23 and 24, 2007. To be an "Employer of Choice Organization" means attracting, optimizing and holding top talents for long tenure because employees choose to be there. Explore and develop the three essential factors of corporate excellence namely: perception management, employment brand management and the best practices of employment and discover for yourself the roadmap to becoming an employer that is truly a cut above the rest. This workshop would be facilitated by Chit Ventura, FPM (Past President, PMAP) and Gerry Plana, FPM (Executive Director, PMAP) and would also include the expertise of Emy Villar(President-Aligned Transformations) Jos Ortega (CEO-Brandlab) and Ric Abadesco, FPM (Vice President, PMAP). For inquiries, please contact: Luanne dela Cruz @726-1532/81/88 or email at luanne.delacruz@pmap.org.ph

The PSTD convention

CALLING ALL TRAINING and Development Managers/Supervisors, HR Consultants, Trainers and all those who possess the penchant for rich learning and training! Gear up for the Philippine Society for Training and Development's 33rd National Convention happening on Oct. 24-26, at the Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City. With this year's theme, "Building People, Deepening Values, Strengthening Relationships: Key to Performance and Results." For information and registration, please call 8139072 or 8140372; email pstdsecretariat@yahoo.com or secretariat@pstd.org; or check out www.pstd.org.

Training on good manufacturing practices in handling and processing of foods

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY'S Food Development Center (NFA-FDC) will conduct a training course on the Requirements for Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) in the Handling and Processing of Foods on August 31, 2007 at the FDC Compound, FTI Complex, Taguig City, Metro Manila. Designed for quality control and food plant supervisors and exporters, the training course aims to upgrade the understanding of participants on the requirements for good manufacturing practices (GMP) in food plants and their adoption under local conditions. The course fee is P1,850.00 per participant inclusive of training manual, lunch, snacks and a shuttle bus service from Ayala Center, Makati to FDC and back. Check payment should be made payable to the Food Development Center, National Food Authority. For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Amelia S. Bautista at telephone numbers 838-4014; 838-4561; 838-4478; 838-4601; Fax nos. 838-4017 and 838-4692 and E-mail address: infofdc@pacific.net.ph.

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WORKING PEOPLE

SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2007

E-mail: workingpeople@inquirer.com.ph.

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Simple steps to attract opportunities at work

By Karen Anne C. Liquete
Contributor

DO YOU WANT TO EXPERience more abundance flowing into your work life everyday? Do you want to attract more opportunities for building wealth your way? Here's a list of practical prosperity actions you can take to receive more golden opportunities for richer living your way.

Bless everything in your life as good. Instead of cursing traffic on the way to work, why don't you take the time to meditate and be grateful for the "good things" happening in your life? Not only will you be pepped up with feel-wonderful vibes that gets you tackling the most challenging goals, you'll also put people at ease with your positive, radiant glow.

Choose to think positively about life. When you fill your mind with positive thoughts about an upcoming presentation, the more confident and self-assured you'll be when you showcase those ideas to management.

Develop the attitude of gratitude. A simple "thank you" given to secretaries, messengers, guards and janitors help boost service personnel's self-esteem. It's a short but sweet affirmation of the invaluable help and assistance they provide on a daily basis. The more you affirm them, the more they'll want to do excellent work.

Release secret "negative" thoughts in your mind like anger, worry or hate. These thoughts only make you feel miserable and contribute to a downward spiraling poverty mentality.

Share talents, time and treasures with others. Giving what we have with ease is a result of feeling rich. The universe responds to that frequency and gives you more of what you feel.

You must be willing to let go of whatever needs to go in your life to make room for more. If you want to become a manager in the future, start thinking like a manager now. Dissolve all the negative habits that block you from becoming the best employee today.

Joy and beauty are magnets for health, wealth and happiness. Happy people who do their work cheerfully are fun to have in the workplace. Grumbling, complaining gossipy coworkers are a turnoff to bosses and officemates.

Give yourself fun, laughter and joy. Find ways to bring these positive attitudes to work. You'll feel revved up, motivated and energized to tackle even the toughest jobs at work.

Begin right where you are now to add whatever touches of beauty you can in the office. Buy a bunch of flowers to brighten your desk. Post motivational quotes on your calendar.

Put your best foot forward all the time. Dress in your best clothes.

Get a new hairdo. When you feel good about yourself, you project the same good vibes to others.

Industry booms as US companies try to get workers to slim down

CHICAGO—A BURGEONING INdustry of wellness advisers, counselors and consultants is booming as corporate America tries to increase productivity and control insurance costs by helping its employees get healthy and shed pounds.

The change is fueled by well-meaning, cost-conscious executives who are looking for ways to trim bottom lines along with waist lines.

"The truth is CEOs are the ones that have to address it," said Mike Huckabee, the Republican presidential candidate and former governor of Arkansas who created a wellness program for state employees after losing more than 100 pounds (45 kilograms).

And they are.

About 53 percent of large employers offered health risk assessments for their staff last year—up from 35 percent in 2004, according to a survey by Mercer Human Resource Consulting.

The prevalence of corporate-sponsored disease management, nurse advice lines and other health-related programs is also climbing as companies find they can no longer trim extra savings out of health insurance policies.

"Employers have spent a lot of time tweaking those, and they haven't spent a lot of time getting a consumer engaged," said Tami Collin, a Mercer consultant who focuses on health and productivity management.

"You'll see plan designs that are really starting to get engaged and motivated."

The change is driven by cost.

A study published in April by a group of Duke University researchers showed obese employees had higher rates of workers' compensation claims, more lost work days and costlier medical bills than their trim co-workers.

Frustrated by health insurance costs that were growing more than 10 percent a year, Ohio State University launched a massive wellness program last year with the hope of cutting medical expenses. Organizers hope the initiative, which offers gift certificates and other prizes, will help the school save $30 million over the next five years, program spokeswoman Kim Schuette said.

While wellness programs once offered counseling or education to only the sickest workers, they're now preaching prevention and more cohesive services that address a range of issues.

"Educating me is one thing. Giving me something that will help me move forward is another," said Kenneth Mitchell, vice president for health and productivity at Chattanooga, Tennessee-based Unum Group, the nation's largest disability insurer. "There's a trend to become more actively engaged and more focused in helping people."

AP

Business shortcomings on anticorruption measures remain – UN study

GENEVA—A UNITED NATIONS SURvey said Monday that there were still major shortcomings in business's approach to human rights and anticorruption measures despite progress in adopting socially and environmentally responsible standards.

The first report on the corporate response to the UN's seven-year-old partnership with companies, the Global Compact, said there was "much room for advancement" on corporate assessments of their impact on human rights, reporting cases of corruption, and in overseeing their suppliers' compliance.

"The survey shows there are distinct areas where companies are excelling and others where they lag," it added.

The human rights group Amnesty International said the voluntary arrangement had not been effective so far and voiced frustration at the lack of enforcement of the 10 pledges dealing with human rights, labor, the environment and anti-corruption.

The report was released ahead of the biggest meeting yet on the UN's Global Compact in Geneva on Thursday and Friday.

It is due to bring together about 650 business executives, as well as ministers, campaign groups, and international organizations.

The 60-page survey of about 400 companies marks the first time the United Nations has tried to assess the implementation of its 10 principles by the Compact's near 4,000-strong corporate members.

The public benchmarking will now be annual, Global Compact Executive Director Georg Kell said.

Eighty-nine percent of companies said they gave employees greater say in policies on labor standards, more than 80 percent said they had measures against discrimination, while 69 percent allowed trade unions.

Half said they had set up policies against forced or child labor, while just 38 percent monitored labor standards in their supply chain.

Forty-three percent of the companies said they had environmental performance targets, but only a quarter to 29 percent had targets for sustainable consumption or production.

Sixty-one percent of companies claimed a "zero tolerance" policy towards corruption, but only 7 percent said they publicized political donations and just 23 percent set sanctions for policy breaches.

Companies were largely monitoring human rights in the workplace. Only 31 percent conducted assessments on the broader risk their policies might pose for human rights, while just 16 percent examined their actual impact. Kell told journalists companies had initially joined the Global Compact thinking they could use it to enhance their public relations.

"That has fundamentally changed, there has been a significant shift towards quality," he argued, underlining the increasing business risk involved in transgressions, and the growing implication of top level management in overseeing proper standards.

"We delisted 600 participants last year and we expect another 500 to be delisted this year," he added, citing shortcomings in their reporting.

However, the number of companies joining the Compact is growing by about one-third a year.

Amnesty International criticized the voluntary nature of the Compact, underlining that it did not replace a company's legal responsibility.

"I would say that we are very concerned that it isn't being very effective," Audrey Gaughran of Amnesty told AFP.

AFP

'I'm torn between my passion and present opportunities'

I AM A FRESH GRADUATE from a prestigious university. After graduation, I planned to work with a non-government organization as a volunteer.

However, I procrastinated and spent two unproductive months without a job.

For several weeks, I applied for a call center job with several companies but I didn't qualify. I was always told that I needed to improve on my grammar, my listening skills and pronunciation. Deep inside me, I knew that I just want to use the call center job as a stepping stone for my passion—a career in social development.

Right now, I feel confused about what I really want with my life. Should I continue to apply with call centers where there are great opportunities now? Should I apply right away with social development institutions, where my passion really is?

Confused Bum

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilia

You are in great company. Millions of people who want to start a great career are torn between their passion and opportunities that come their way. Some wait too long, while some take the first bus that comes along. Which choice should you take?

Career blunders

A common blunder among those who want to get their dream job is the tendency to take the first job that comes along. Another blunder is to take the beaten, safe path where everyone else wants to tread—where millions crowd themselves and sometimes get trampled on. There's always a catch. When you ride the first bus that comes your way, it may not take you to your desired destination. If you wait too long for the right bus, it could be too late for you.

Know what you want

You are fortunate to know what you want. Many people started out in their careers without knowing what they want. They took whatever jobs that came along, not even knowing what their passion was. In fact, millions of people work till retirement day without knowing their passion. They simply thought that a job was a livelihood, a means to earn a living.

Others who took pains in searching their inner self to find out their passion seem to gain more from their careers. Jobs can be a source of life and happiness. I dread the day when I would drag myself to work and feel that work is an unpleasant activity.

Stepping stone

By and large, successful people do what they love, and love what they do.

Some people who ended up successful in their careers did not know their passion at first. More often, it is by trial and error that one discovers his or her passion. Sometimes, one has to kiss a lot of frogs before she can find her prince.

Many first jobs are merely stepping stones. I don't think there's nothing wrong with that. I started my career in other fields before I found that human resources management is my passion.

But you must choose a stepping stone that should get you closer to your career goal. Sometimes, a stepping stone could distract you from your real passion and could become your final destination. Moreover, a good stepping stone should be easy to step into.

You said you've tried out with several call centers and failed to get the job you want as a stepping stone. Like Simon Cowell [of American Idol], I don't want to be rude, but I think it will be extremely difficult for you to get a call center job. I think your strength is somewhere else . For the moment, stop pursuing a career in call centers. Let the negative responses that you got tell you that call centers don't deserve you—after all, you know where your talent, passion and heart are.

Focus on your passion

If you wish to be in the corporate world, surf the net and see which large multinationals have extensive CSR programs. That could be closer to your social development knack. Find out how your skills can add value to these companies. Check out their web sites to see if you can relate with their vision, mission and values. If you think you now have the competencies required to contribute value to any of these multinationals, find out where you fit. Then make a resumé targeting a certain position.

In life and career, focus can do great wonders. Today, call center agents are increasing in great numbers everyday. Their crowd is so big now that it is difficult to stand out in that crowd, especially if you can't be the best call center agent. On the other hand, your chosen field, social development, is almost like a virgin forest. At least, the road going there is still less traveled. I think your talent and your passion will thrive better in that field.

About passion

In the 1992 movie, "Mo' Money," someone said, "A job is nothing but work."

Millions of people feel that way—they are the greater mass of humanity that plod aimlessly everyday, without knowing why they do what they do .

Usually, those who stand out in the crowd are those who are passionate with what they do.

Tony Canza once said, "Passionate people make you feel like they are going to make something good happen. You can see it in their eyes."

In life and career, the normal choice is to take the safe route, where there is less risk. We are usually afraid of taking risks, of committing a mistake, of being criticized. If you want to avoid being criticized, simply heed Aristotle's wisdom, "Criticism is something we can avoid easily by saying nothing, doing nothing, and being nothing."

(The author is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He was the president of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines in 1999. E-mail at ernie_cecilia@yahoo. com)

Two things missing

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTS AT COMMUNICATIONS TELL US THAT WHEN we give instructions, we should make them "echoed" to us. It is not enough to get a "Yes, sir!" to our "Is that clear?"—we should ask that our instructions be repeated for us. But why is it that even intelligent people in the workplace have problems following instructions? It is so frustrating to rely on an assistant, for example, who may be smart but who makes booboos half the time. (Rule out his being overqualified for his job, for if that were so, why isn't he being promoted?) On the other hand, we hear of domestic helpers who never went beyond primary school but who are relied upon by their employers to attend PTA meetings on their behalf. Clearly, position, education or IQ have little to do with efficiency.

Compare ourselves to those people in today's Gospel story who are poised to carry out detailed instructions. I presume none of them had to echo Jesus' orders back to Him before setting off, yet the Master trusted that things would be done as He said. So where lies the difference? I see two things that those workers of old had that we—workers over 2,000 years later—have not: focus and a sense of mission.

It's tough to focus on what's essential at work when we have so many gadgets and gizmos at our fingertips: cell phones, TV, Internet, MP3, etc. (Some psychologists claim that an MP3 stuck in the ear while working or studying in fact enhances concentration; well, some psychologists will peddle bull schmuck just to sound hip). And the sense of mission? Those servants of old knew they were working towards the Kingdom of God. Do we know why we are working and for what? *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Gospel: Lk. 10: 1-9

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit.

Clarified communication

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

IN THIS GOSPEL VERSE, I COULD SEE JESUS LIKE A MANAGER OR EMployer gathering a staff of 72 and instructing them clearly and specifically what each one of them would do. He gave them the "authority" to perform their assigned task not only by explicitly telling them so, but also by His way of giving clear and categorical description of their assignment which in turn gave the staff power and determination to execute the clearly given and understood tasks. Jesus, therefore, has shown a wonderful example of good management and the necessity of clear communication in pastoral matters but also I believe by extension, in affairs related to work and business.

In the workplace, managers should give clearly defined goals and expectations, simple and specific work instructions and the corresponding authorization for the worker to accomplish his job; the worker, likewise, should understand all of what he is expected to do and how he has to do them in exactly the same meaning the managers have intended them. But sometimes, clear communication may still not be enough; "clarified communication"—both sender and receiver understanding the message with the same meaning—may still be needed. Both managers and workers should freely ask each other questions and clarifications. The work environment should have the atmosphere that encourages everyone to understand each other correctly.

When there is clear and clarified communication among everyone in the workplace, work and business would become pleasurable and no longer be a burden or an obligation to bear. Everyone would feel a sense of power and authority in doing their work, thereby feeling also a greater sense of self-fulfillment. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

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100 CABIN STEWARDESSES
At least 6 months experience as housekeeping staff or chambermaid in 3-5 star hotels or resorts; at least 5'3" and above in height; 21 -28 years old

100 SNACK STEWARDS/WAITRESSES
At least 1 year experience in 3-5 star hotels or in fine dining restaurants; male or female; 21 – 28 years old; male - 5'7", or above; female-5'3" or above

40 LIBRARIANS
At least 2 years experience as librarian or professor in a reputable university or college; excellent in oral and written English, preferably good in public speaking; computer literate with good administrative skills; female; not over 35 years old

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At least 2 years experience in the same field; shipboard experience preferred; not over 35 years old

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Graduate of BS HRM, Tourism or Cruise Ship Management; 21-28 years old; male, 5' 7" or above; no experience required

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PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR – Electrical Engineering grad. w/ maintenance and prod. experiences

Applicants may send resumé to:
2662 Honduras St., San Isidro, Makati City
Tel. No.: 844-3041 to 44, email: rslim@actron.com.ph

EASTERN PETROLEUM CORPORATION

is in need of applicants for the following positions:

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- Must be an Accounting Graduate
- Male/Female, not over 26 years old
- With at least 2 years experience in Accounting
- Possesses good analytical skill and highly efficient
- Excellent in oral and written communication, computer literate and familiar with any accounting software
- Knowledgeable on government reportorial requirements
- Familiar with Philippine Accounting Standards and its application
- Familiar with basic taxation and BIR regulations.

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

- BS Marketing Graduate or any related course
- Able to relate to customers with courtesy
- At least 2 years experience in sales and marketing is an advantage
- Dedicated team player
- Highly-initiative and can handle pressure
- Willing to assist clients and work on extended hours as needed
- Single, Male, not over 27 years old
- Excellent communication skills and pleasing personality
- Highly motivated and result-oriented

MARKETING SUPERVISOR

- Minimum of 3 years experience in Marketing
- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing/Business related course
- Excellent understanding of advertising, marketing research and direct marketing
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Not over 35 years old

MARKETING MANAGER

- Graduate of Marketing or any allied course from a reputable university
- Male/Female, not more than 35 years old
- Have at least 3-4 years experience in management capacity.
- Candidate must be able to formulate and implement marketing programs, promotional plans and strategies
- Must have public relations skills and proficient in oral and written communication, computer literacy is a must.
- Well organized, self-directed, able to multi-task and understand the importance of detailed professional quality work.
- Leadership capabilities and strong self-motivation towards operational excellence
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- PREFERABLY MALE
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- CAN PREPARE/DRAFT GENERAL PLEADINGS
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- COMPUTER LITERATE (MS OFFICE, WINDOWS XP)

SEND RESUMÉ TO: HR/GS SECTION, NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORP., SAN VICENTE, BIÑAN, LAGUNA OR EMAIL ADDR. **maelemos@transco.ph** OR **eobaronia@transco.ph**

ONE (1) PRINCIPAL ENGINEER C/ JG-13; BIDS & CONTRACTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT, HEAD OFFICE, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

REQUIREMENTS:

- BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ENGINEERING PREFERABLY CIVIL, ELECTRICAL OR MECHANICAL
- AT LEAST EIGHT (8) HOURS OF RELEVANT TRAINING ON BID RULES AND REGULATIONS
- AT LEAST TWO (2) YEARS EXPERIENCE IN PROCUREMENT AND RELATED FUNCTIONS
- MUST BE ABLE TO PREPARE EVALUATION REPORT ON PROCUREMENT, ABILITY TO WORK IN A TEAM & UNDER PRESSURE. WITH GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS BOTH ORAL & WRITTEN
- GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP W/ PEERS & SUPERVISORS AND WITH KNOWN INTEGRITY AND CONFIDENCE
- COMPUTER LITERATE (MS OFFICE, WINDOWS XP)

SEND RESUMÉ TO: HRSD-HRD, NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORP., DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY OR EMAIL ADDR. **acsonajo@transco.ph**

The Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc.

The Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc., a Manila-based non-government organization working nationwide to empower marginalized migrants, especially child domestic workers and victims of trafficking, is currently in need of the following:

(1) IT Training Officer (to be assigned in Manila)

- Computer Science/ IT graduate
- Well versed in Computer Hardware Fundamentals; Internet Access and World Wide Web Fundamentals; Web Design Fundamentals; Digital Media Fundamentals; Word Processing Fundamentals (Microsoft Word); Presentation Fundamentals (Microsoft Powerpoint Presentation); Spreadsheet Fundamentals (Microsoft Excel); Data Base Fundamentals (Microsoft Access)
- Has experience in teaching or willing to teach computer skills to youth
- Good in oral and written communications
- Experience in NGO developmental work specializing in children's rights, child labor, trafficking of women and children is an advantage
- Good interpersonal relations, especially with women and children
- A team worker and able to work efficiently with minimum supervision

(1) Social Worker (to be assigned in Manila)

- Graduate in Social Work
- At least 2 years experience in case management and handling of children and women in distress
- Experience in NGO developmental work specializing in children's rights and child labor is an advantage
- Good in oral and written communications
- Computer literate
- A team worker and able to work efficiently with minimum supervision
- Good interpersonal relations, especially with women and children
- Preferably willing to stay-in

(1) Human Resource Officer

- Graduate in Psychology, Behavioral Science or related courses
- At least 2 years experience in human resource development including psychological testing and measurements
- Knowledgeable in Philippine Labor laws
- Experience in NGO developmental work is an advantage
- Good in oral and written communications
- Computer literate
- Good in interpersonal relations

Interested applicants can e-mail their CV to admin@visayanforum.org. or fax: 421-94-23 on or before July 15, 2007. Only qualified applicants will be notified.

Pueblo Porla Playa

needs the following:

CHEF DE PARTIE

- 2 years experience as Chef de Partie
- Total of 8 years experience in the kitchen
- Has background on Asian cuisine
- Team player

LIFE GUARD

- Male or Female
- 21-30 yrs old
- Fluent in English and Filipino languages
- Must have a basic/professional training on first aide
- An experience is an advantage

HOTEL & RESTAURANT MANAGER

- Male
- 21-30 years old
- Graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management or any related course
- Experience in managing a hotel & restaurant an advantage

Interested applicant may bring their resumé to:

HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR
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- College graduate (fresh graduates are welcome)
- Possess excellent written and oral communication skills
- Knowledgeable and experienced in sales, marketing and account management an advantage
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For inquiries, look for Dang Domingo or Bong Oriña at 8885254, 7284927. Part-timers are welcome to apply.

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FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME OUTBOUND SALES REPRESENTATIVES

We are looking for college graduates who have excellent communication skills. Experience in sales is a plus. Fresh graduates are welcome to apply. Candidates should be willing to be based in Ortigas or Marikina Riverbanks. Part-time positions are available in our Marikina Site.

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We are looking for college graduates or undergraduates who have excellent English communication skills and fluent in Spanish or French. Highly computer literate with very good navigational skills and willing to work nightshifts. This position will be based in either Marikina Riverbanks, Ortigas or Makati.

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Management Requirements applicants must send their resumes to

yogomanila@ictgroup.com

For Operations Requirements, please visit any of the following addresses:

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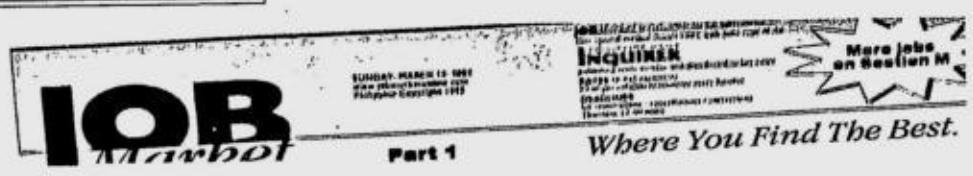

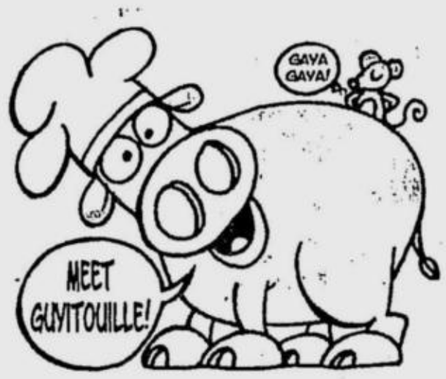

Junior INQUIRER

E-mail: ji@inquirer.com.ph

SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2007 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 10, NUMBER 67

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Just how tall is the largest dino skeleton in Asia?

Page 4

An artist's recipe

By Ruth L. Navarra

SOMETHING SMELLS deliciously good at the Disney-Pixar kitchen, and you'd be surprised to find out who's cooking.

Filipino animator Gini Cruz Santos, best known for animating Dory in "Finding Nemo", concocts a new recipe for "Ratatouille". She animated human characters Colette and Linguini, and a rat called Emile.

A ratatouille is a French vegetable dish.

An animator is an artist who, with the use of a lot of drawings, creates the illusion of movement.

This new movie from Pixar Animation Studios is about Remy, a rat who wants to become a famous chef in Paris. He can whip up delicious meals, but who would want to eat something prepared by a rat?

"That is the biggest challenge of the story. It's a perfect example of a character who badly wants to do something, but he's got to do it in an environment where he is not widely accepted," says Gini.

Persevering against odds is something to which Gini can relate.

Although born in Manila, Gini migrated with her family to Guam. She came back to the Philippines to study, and finished Fine Arts at the University of Santo Tomas.

Gini worked for a while in an advertising firm in Guam. But, she soon felt that she wanted to do something else. After studying Computer Art in New York, she landed a job in Pixar in 1996.

Since then, she has animated famous characters like Woody and Jesse in "Toy Story 2", Sulley and Mike in "Monsters, Inc.", Helen Parr, Dash, Violet, Edna Mode, and Frozone for "The Incredibles", and her personal favorite, Dory from "Finding Nemo".

How can one become an animator like you?

It depends on the company. But at Pixar, I know they definitely stress drawing (by hand) although we do a lot of stuff using computers. They believe in the art so they encourage it.

An artist's recipe/ p. 4

Guyito's Corral

WELCOME TO MY CORRAL! This is your own special space, where you can express your thoughts and feelings about anything under the sun in the form of essays, poems, letters and even illustrations!

Send all contributions to ji@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to indicate your full name, age and the city where you live. We'll be waiting!

Letters

dear JI,

BECAUSE OF MY HECTIC SCHEDULE DURING weekdays, it's really nice to relax and read something interesting.

When I wake up during Sunday mornings, I always go to the pile of newspapers and look for Junior Inquirer. I like JI because it has beautiful colors, pictures and articles that I can relate to. I like it when the JI Snoops write an article because it's really fun to read something that you can understand.

Thank you for allowing kids like me to write freely to Junior Inquirer.

—Sharmaine Selene S. Garcia
11 years old
Parañaque City

Thanks Sharmaine, it really makes us happy when readers like you tell us how you feel.

Please call Ate Dianne at 897-8808 loc. 340. We have a thank-you gift for you!

—JI Staff

For or by Kids

Scribble and 'd' Gang

By Mikel Jacinto
12 years old
San Juan

I have a group of friends
They're really crazy and fun
When we start screaming
The day has only begun.

First, there's Camille
She likes milk, which makes me squeal
Then there's that fool Banelle
She's sorta goofy, and funny as well.

You should totally meet my friend Deanne
She's quiet, but when she speaks, she says plenty.
Annica's my friend, and she's very tall
When you stand beside her, you'd feel rather small.

I've got a friend named Nicole, but we all call her Yeo
She's a really good friend, one you should get to know.
Last is Christine, a friend whom you should meet
She is kinda quiet, but very very sweet.

These people are my wacky friends
They're called Scribble and 'd' Gang
The best sort of people
To start the school year with a bang!

Junior INQUIRER

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2005 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee Hall of Fame

Want to get to know other JI readers like you? Want to write to our Snoops? Or do you simply want to be the first to know about JI promos? Join our yahoogroup! Just send a blank e-mail to jireaders-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Wassup World?

Sorsogon, PHILIPPINES

Poor earth

WHAT would make Mother Earth sad? In a painting done by students in Sorsogon, our world is shown reeling from the effects of global warming. The murals are a project for the celebration of the National Environment Month.

Bobby Q. Labalan/Inquirer Southern Luzon

Henan, CHINA

Scary skeleton

IT'S a good thing that this dino is just all bones! This reconstruction of a dinosaur's skeleton is estimated to be 85 to 100 million years old and stands at 18 meters tall. Chinese archaeologists claim that the skeleton is the largest in Asia. Although China is rich with archaeological sites, previous reports indicate that it suffers from illegal trade in real and fabricated dinosaur bones. **AFP**

Baghdad, IRAQ

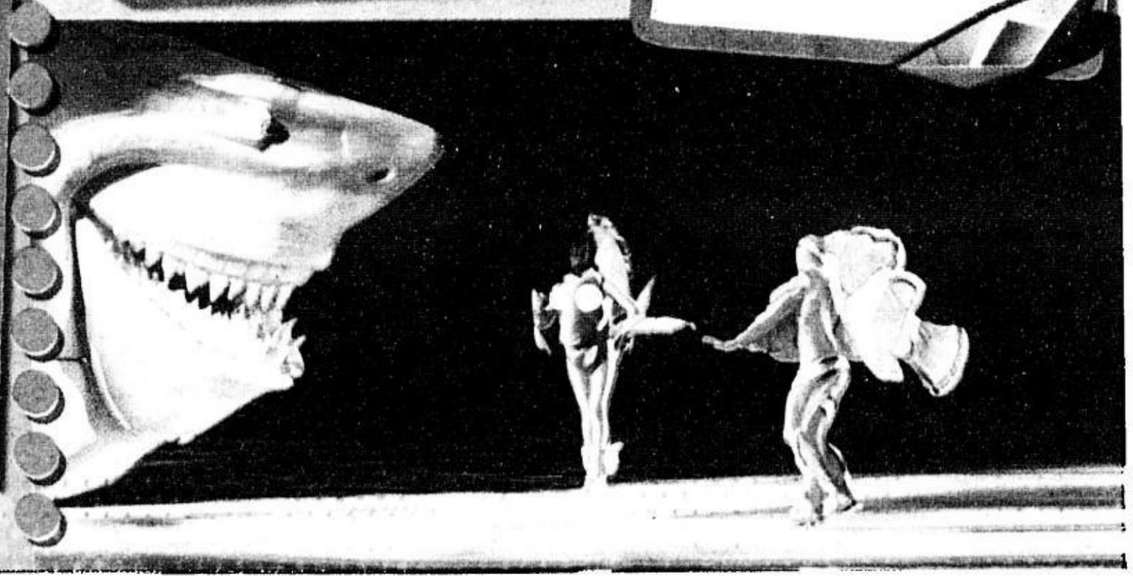
A different game

WHILE other kids may be playing ball or hide-and-seek, Iraqi children play war games in Baghdad. Even children's games are being affected by ongoing violence in the country, especially the clashes between the police and groups of private citizens. **AP**

Melbourne, AUSTRALIA

Frozen Nemo

MARLIN and Dory are chased by a shark in these scenes from the Disney on Ice production of "Finding Nemo" in Melbourne. The show features a team of award-winning figure skaters, artistic choreography and a projected aquatic backdrop. **AFP**



Iloilo, PHILIPPINES

Go green

INSTEAD of using a plastic bag for your groceries, why not try a cloth bag? In different branches of SM Supermarket, including the one in SM Iloilo, shoppers can use these specially made green bags to minimize waste.

Arnold Almacen/ Inquirer Visayas

What's your favorite baon?

Hotdog and rice for lunch. I fry my own hotdog. —**Patricia Marie Curitana**, 10 years old, Manila

Sandwiches with mayonnaise or other sandwich spreads. —**Patricia Erika Tañoco**, 11 years old, Manila

Any leftover bread in the fridge will do for me because I can easily put it in my bag.—**Aidous Espejo**, 10 years old, Manila

I like the lunch my mom makes for me. It's usually fried chicken and hotdog. —**Ronald John Mee**, 12 years old, Manila

My lola Marilou and I make cupcakes for my baon. I like spelling words while mixing the ingredients. —**Czarina Vendivil**, 8 years old, Manila

I like fried chicken or chicken nuggets. No junk food for me! —**Ryan Racela**, 10 years old, Quezon City

An artist's recipe (from page 1)

What do you like best about your job?

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Like what?

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If "Ratatouille" were real, would you eat something Remy cooked?

If I ate something really good, and then someone will say "here's who made that" I would probably pass out. But I would not deny it's good if it's really good.

If you were going to be animated, what would you be?

I would be a dog. I love dogs. I grew up with dogs all my life. Who would be the voice? I would like it to be Ellen Degeneres. She has a very dry sense of humor much like my style.

The character would be kind of naïve. I like that even when you scold dogs, they would forget about it in a while. I like that about them.

SPARK BLAST-OFF. Catch the launch of Spark Magazine, the magazine for kids that brings out the fun in science! Have a blast with interactive exhibits, exciting games and loads of prizes. The blast-off will happen at SM Megamall from August 25 to 30.

* * *

DR. DOG. The Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) is in need of toys, coloring books, crayons for its Dr. Dog program which brings therapy dogs to children's hospitals all over Metro Manila. Please send your donations to PAWS Animal Rehabilitation Center or to 87 Small Horseshoe Drive, New Manila, Quezon City before July 21.

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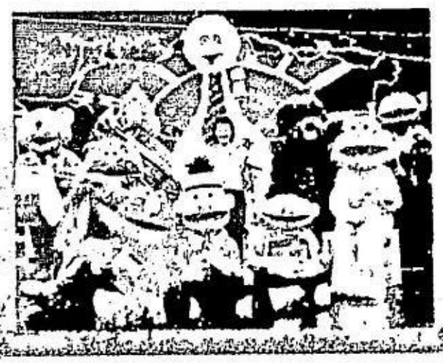
ABKD 2007. The Citizens' Disaster Response Center (CDRC) is calling all kids aged 7-12 years old to take part in its poster-making contest with the theme, "Apoy, Bagyo, Kalamidad: Dibuhong Pambata" or "ABKD". ABKD aims to show what young people think of disasters and for their views to be included in advocacy materials related to disaster effects and preparedness that are being distributed to schools, communities and institutions. Deadline for entries is Sept. 14, 2007. Log on to www.cdrc-phil.org or call 924-0386 or 928-7860 and look for Mr. Aunario S. Lucero Jr. for more details.

* * *

DESIGN YOUR OWN VIRTUAL PET. Ever thought how cool it would be to play with your self-designed Tamagotchi? Bandai, the makers of Tamagotchi Connection, will make it possible for lucky Tamagotchi enthusiasts who will also win up to P10,000 worth of Bandai & Tamagotchi items. Log on to www.bankee.com.ph for more details. The Tamagotchi Version 4 design contest is open to all enthusiasts from 6 to 18 years old. Deadline of submission of entries is on July 22. Judging will be held on July 29 at the Grand Atrium of Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

* * *

SESAME STREET LIVE. Everyone's favorite children's show is rolling into town! Catch Big Bird, Oscar the Grouch, Ernie, Bert, Grover, Cookie Monster, Elmo and Count von Count and the rest of the Sesame Street gang at the Aliw Theater CCP Complex on July 18 to 22. You can get your tickets at all SM TicketNet outlets or call 911-5555, 374-2222 or 374-9999.



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Pauleen Maria Gurion, 6 years old, Manila

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BY LEVEL-UP GAMES

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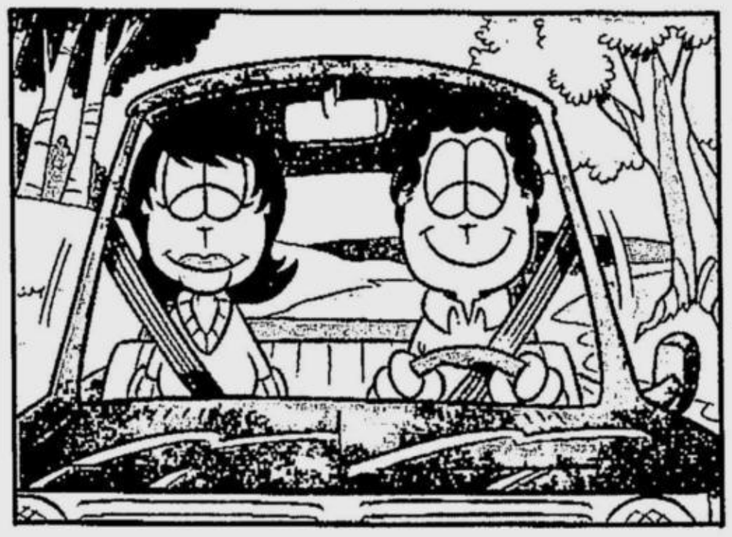

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BY STEPH BRAVO

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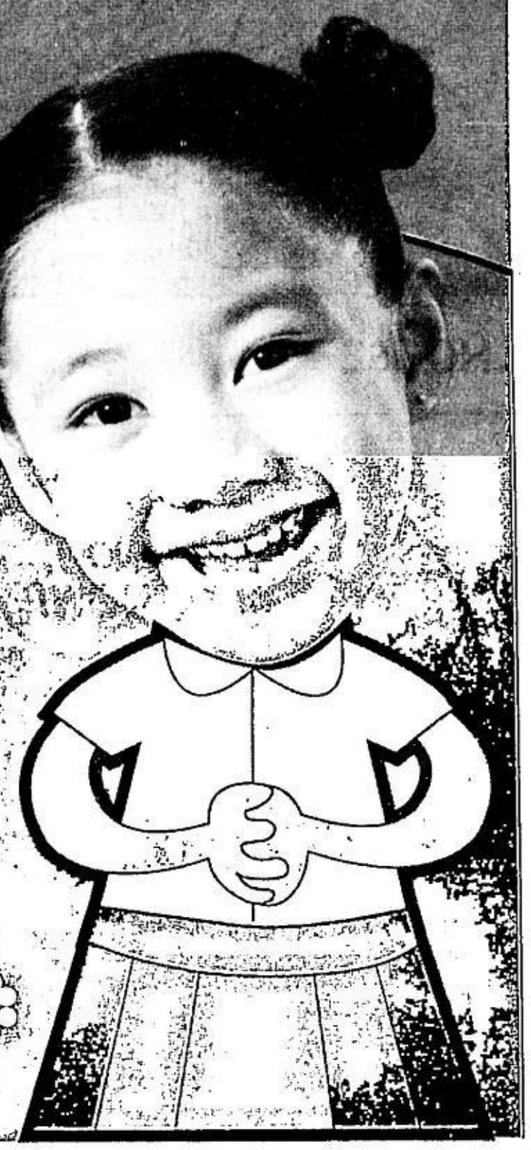

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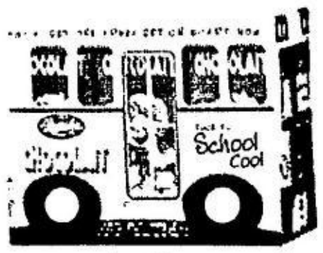
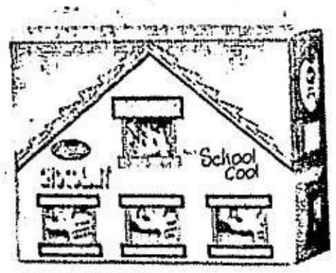
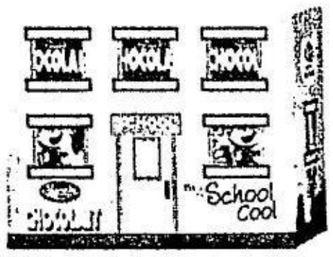


School's Cool Bus



Cool School



Classroom Cool

* Promo runs from June 16 to July 31, 2007. Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0744, Series of 2007.

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Big on Japan

Pinoy Cosplayers

plus Otakus Take Over • Anime Ev re • M argains • Mo

By Tony M. Maghirang
Photographs by Keith Dador

All dressed up: Cosplayers get together

Tuning Into Japan

Believe your ears—Pinoys are getting more and more into the music from the Land of the Rising Sun

THERE'S alternative music inching to cross over into the mainstream—and it's made in Japan.

Twice a year, about 1,000 fans of Japanese rock or J-Rock gather together as a community in concerts that celebrate the music they love. J-Rock cover bands, composed mostly of male college students and adoring female fans, a motley crowd of high school kids, *colegialas* and young professionals, turn up for these gigs.

Five years ago, the entire Japanese music scene in the Philippines was restricted to Internet mailing lists which allowed fans to merely trade information on Japanese acts and their recordings. The lists did not gather enough support from their intended audience and their own administrators, who failed to sustain the lists.

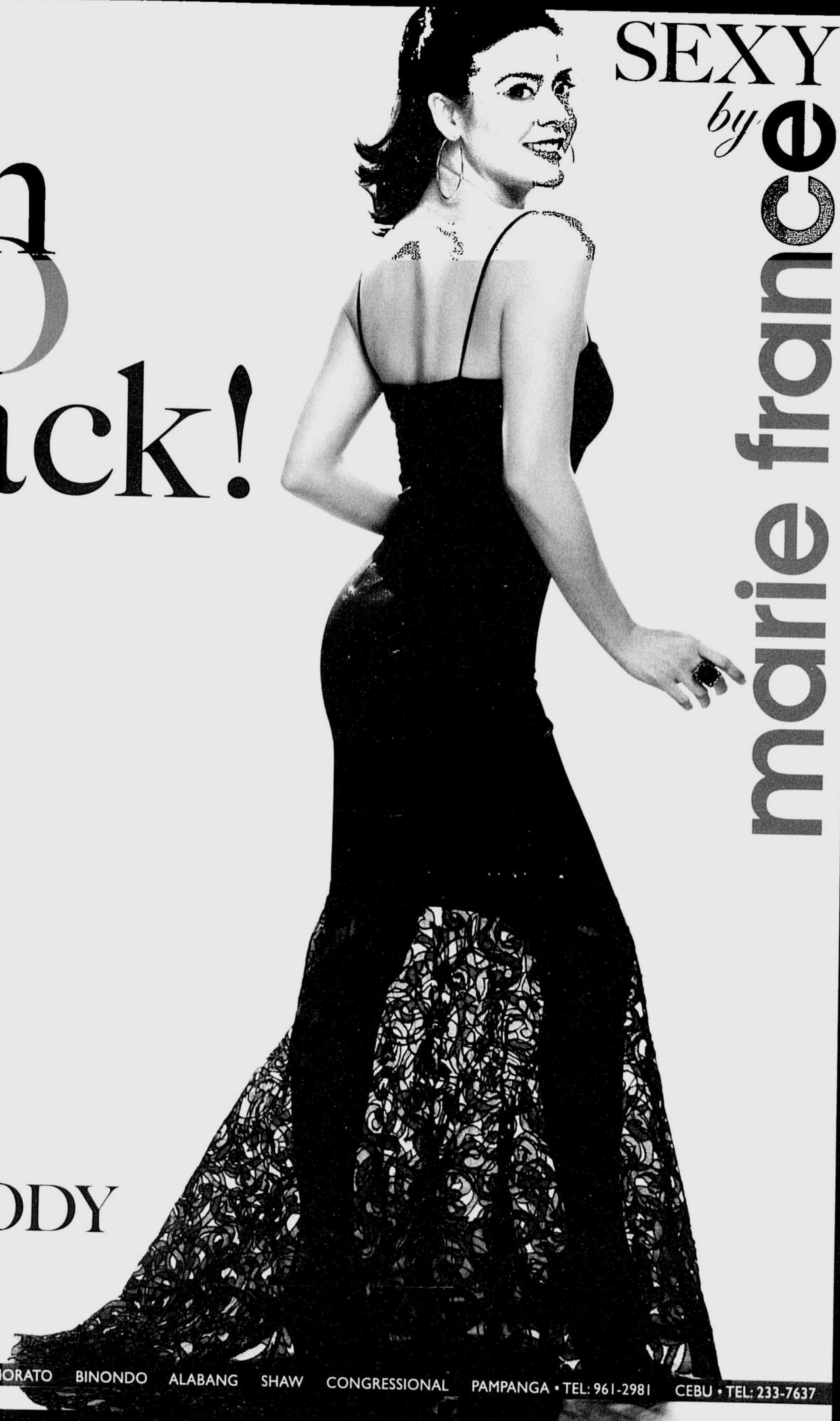
In 2003, a group of fans met at an anime convention and started toying with the idea of putting up an organization that would serve as a venue for local enthusiasts to share with others their passion for contemporary Japanese pop. The Ongaku Society was born and a website (http://www.ongaku-society.org/) followed, which has become a hang-out on the Web for Pinoy Japanophiles.

In Japan, all types of popular music is simply pop. When Japan pop moved to the international centerstage in the early 21st century, music fans and critics made a distinction between fluffy J-pop and the more exciting music of J-Rock. The Ongaku Society focused on promoting J-Rock because of the thrill of watching bands in a live setting.

Ria Aguilar, who handles marketing for the Ongaku Society, says, "J-Rock is a treat for the eyes and ears, with its unique melodies and interesting lyrics, and an amazing fashion sense. The diverse sounds of the performers and the glam look of both the bands and the audience are a blast." Since its inception, the Ongaku Society has

(continued on page 13)

I'm SO Back!



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Text and photographs by Gina Abuyuan

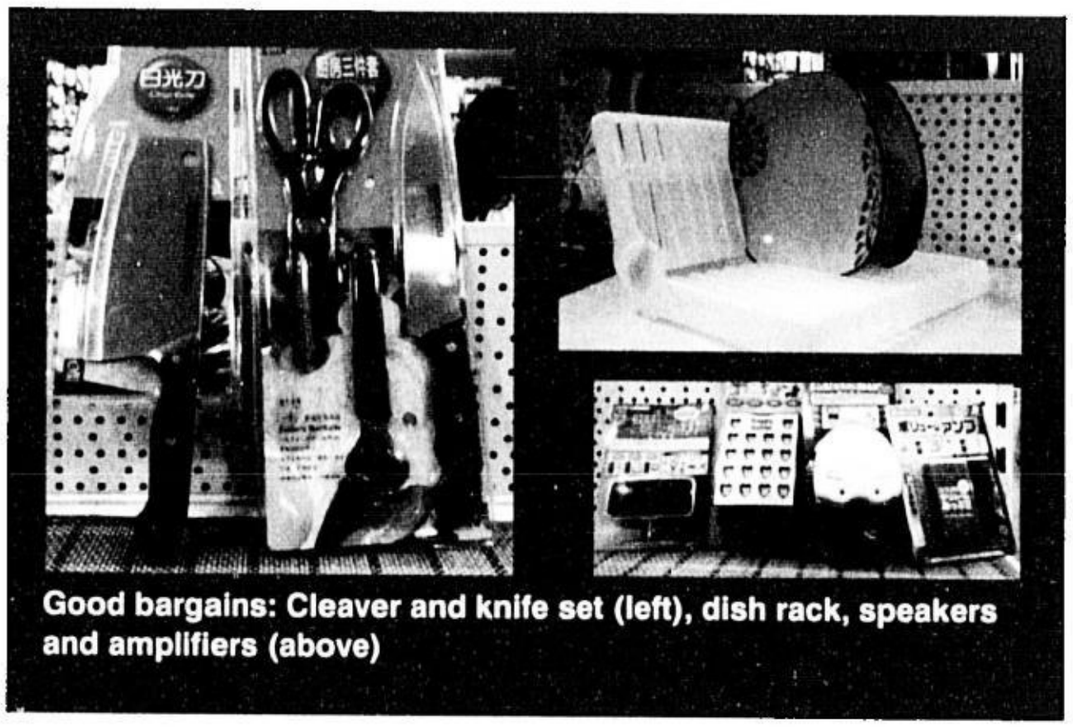
The great P88 bargain hunt

Adventurous shoppers may be surprised at what you can buy for less than a hundred pesos—if you look in the right places

MOST of you may think that finding anything of quality below P100 is impossible nowadays. But think again: stores like the P88 Store and Japan Home Centre are proving that anyone can still get a good buy while on a tight budget.

Just like its US equivalents, the Dollar Store and the 99-cent Store, all items in both P88 Store and Japan Home Centre are pegged at one price—in this case, P88. They range from toys to picture frames to toilet paper (at 10 rolls per pack) to snacks (green peas with garlic or cheese crackers, anyone?). Though not all are made in Japan, admits one of Japan Home Centre's owners (who asked not to be named), "all are made for the Japanese market and can actually be found in stores in Japan." Hence, you're assured of quality, even if a lot of the items are made in—where else?—China.

We visited the Japan Home Centre in Farmer's Market Cubao one weekend to list down the top 10 unique offerings. Here's what we came up with:



Good bargains: Cleaver and knife set (left), dish rack, speakers and amplifiers (above)

For the kitchen:

1. **Cleaver.** A hardworking knife for under a hundred bucks? Sold!

2. **Tongs-slash-strainer.** A must in every Japanese kitchen, cuts the time and effort of picking up your deep fried cooking and straining them separately after.

3. **Scissors-knife-peeler set.** A three-in-one bargain. 'Nuff said.

4. **Tea pot with infuser.** Another time and effort saver. This one sells for P100 in *tiangges*.

5. **Foldable dish rack/ organizer.** Singled out by JHC's owners as one of their bestsellers, this space saver can also be laid flat if more dishes need to be dried.

For the living room:

6. **Happy Station speakers and amplifier** (sold separately). You can hook up this personal speaker into your CD, DVD, or MP3 player, if you'd like a little more noise. For even more, get the amplifier.

For the bedroom:

7. **Shoe holder.** Great for keeping shoes organized at home or when travelling.

8. **Polo organizer.** Holds hubby's polo shirts and keeps them neatly folded while in the closet or in his suitcase.

9. **Bag organizer.** Keeps bags dust-free and neatly packed away.

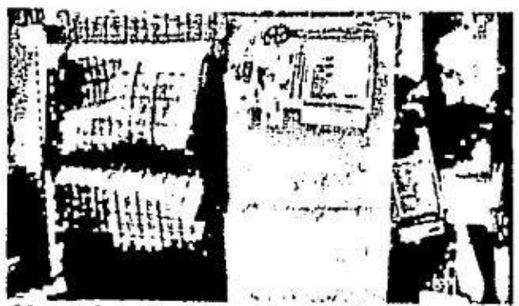
For the dresser:

10. **Make-up sponges.** This set of differently-shaped (hence for different functions) sponges is a bargain, considering sponges in other stores sell for at least P50 a piece!

Runners up:

General organizer. Can hold cigarettes, keys, make-up, etc.

Floor rug. With no-slip rubber grips. Can give higher-priced brands a run for their money.•



Neat freak: Bag and polo organizer

Text and photographs by Margaux Salcedo

Hello Koreatown!

What's great about Korean cuisine is the method and culture involved in enjoying it: how the kimchi is served before the meal, how the barbecues are fumelessly cooked before you

Barbecue, Korean-style at Dong Won (left); Octopus noodles at Ma San (top)

FILIPINO food may date as far back as hundreds of years ago, but Korean delicacies date back thousands. The kimchi, also spelled as *gimchi* or *kimchee*, a traditional fermented vegetable dish, dates as far back as 3,000 years ago! Food references say its earliest form consisted only of salted vegetables. Then in the 12th century, people began to include spices, and in the 17th century, they started started using chili peppers. The kimchi that we know today as staple Korean fare, called *baechu kimchi*, only gained popularity in the 19th century and is actually only one variety of this jurassic appetizer.

I include these details because every Korean restaurant begins the meal with a party of kimchi. Called *banchan*, the party may have as few as four bowls of side dishes or as many as ten. At the Korean restaurants here, the frequent partygoers are the *baechu kimchi*, *mul kimchi* or water *kimchi*, *toge* or mung bean sprouts, and *dilis* or long-jawed anchovy. Sometimes the Pinoy in me makes me want to just ask for water and a bowl of rice to go with the free appetizer spread ("Jas woh-ter plis, teynkyu!") because there's just so much to begin the meal; at the same time the Bulakenya in me makes me want to try every item on the menu and assess how it's cooked. Personal stories aside, whether the reason be health—as kimchi is believed to be a healthy side dish with many nutritious benefits—or simply to whet the appetite, with its characteristic spiciness, serving kimchi to start off the meal is definitely a part of Korean culture.

This is what I had to understand as I toured what I now call Koreatown at the Bel Air Gillage ("*GILid ng* villAGE"). The area I am referring to is that stretch from Jupiter to JP Rizal bound by Makati Avenue, Rockwell and Bel Air. This area, countrymen, is now owned by Koreans, who have been quietly building their Makati community lot by lot.

Although the malls present only Kaya, Koreatown has Korean restaurant beside Korean restaurant. How do you choose? Why, ask the "Gillage People," of course.

Korean classic: Kimchi

The neighborhood and corporate favorite is Ma San Garden on Polaris. Ma San has been in existence the past seven years and has built a steady and loyal clientele among Koreans and Filipinos alike. Ample parking space is provided but it would be wise to bring a driver if you want to make that lunch. It isn't hard to find as its distinctly Korean facade, which is matched by its distinctly Korean interiors, is quite obvious. To complete the Korean experience, Ms. Lee, who manages the restaurant with such warm hospitality it's almost Filipino, welcomes each guest in her full Korean attire, even if she can hardly speak Filipino or English.

Koreans usually order the Sogogi Gukbap, a hot soup with beef and vegetables, and Bibimbap, which is a a bowl of warm white rice topped with sauteed and seasoned vegetables, beef, a fried egg, and *gochujang* (chili pepper paste). Another favorite is the Lapu Lapu Sashimi Set which is, as its name states, raw fish, but served "Korean-style," with the entire fish, fresh out of the aquarium, served to you on a platter.

I was quite impressed by the tenderness and tastiness of the beef in their *galbi chim*, which the menu translates to "broiled beef rib"; not so much, however, with their squid and octopus dishes, which, to my pedestrian taste, seemed to simply be Korean seafood chopsuey, as these were drowned in veggies and capped with the same chili used for kimchi.

For Korean barbecue, visit Dong Won Garden on Jupiter. Let me just plug in a quick briefer on Korean barbecue: it is not enjoyed on a stick. Whether it's *samgyupsal* (pork), *dak gui* (spicy chicken), *woosul gui* (ox tongue) or *jango gui* (eel), this is enjoyed sandwiched in a lettuce leaf after dipping the barbecued meat in bean paste and cushioning it with garlic. Do avoid the inclination to create a Korean burrito with the lettuce leaf and do enjoy

(continued on page 12)

By Eric S. Caruncho
Photographs by Romy Homillada

Turning Japanese: When Pinoy Otakus Attack!

We are in the midst of a second Japanese invasion: No bombs or bullets this time, but strategically-targeted doses of Japanese pop culture.

Street style: Cosplayers in full regalia

SUGOI mga kapatid!

First, there was "Meteor Garden" and the (thankfully short-lived) craze for the Taiwanese boy band F4.

A couple of years ago, the buzz was all about *hallyu* (or *han-ryu*), the so-called "Korean wave": Korean TV dramas such as "Jewel in the Palace" and "Winter Sonata" kept Filipino viewers glued to their tubes, hit Korean films such as "My Sassy Girl" and "My Little Bride" were dubbed into Tagalog and screened in local theaters, and we even adopted our very own Korean pop idol surrogate in the person of one Sandara Park.

Today, however, the Philippines is in the midst of a second Japanese invasion: No bombs or bullets this time, but strategically-targeted doses of Japanese pop culture. Their grandparents might have feared and hated the invading "*sakang*," but for the current generation of young Filipinos, Japan is the source of all that is *sugoi* ("Wow!," "Awesome!") and *kakkoii* ("Cool!").

Two cable channels feed kids (and not a few adults) a steady diet of anime 24/7. The TV networks have their own anime programs, as well as Japanese teleseries such as "Gokusen" and "GTO (Great Teacher Onizuka)" dubbed into Tagalog. The same people who used to snap up Korean movies in the pirate DVD stalls are now fueling an insatiable demand for Japanese DVDs, mostly live action romance and dramas, although old staples such as *chambara* (swordfight) and J-horror films still have their adherents. As for anime fans, they now have their own sections in the DVD markets exclusively devoted to anime and *sentai* (live action) movies and TV series, with literally hundreds of titles, from old favorites such as "Voltes V," "Grendaizer" and "Astroboy," to cult classics like "Akira," "Grave of the Fireflies" and the amazing films from Hayao Miyazaki's Studio Ghibli, to the ever-expanding Gundam series.

Japanese pop culture has penetrated deep into mainstream Filipino life. You can, for instance, go to Divisoria and find "Naruto" and "Samurai X" merchandise and anime figures as well as the ubiquitous flying Doraemon toy. One of the hot items this school opening is the replica "Death Note" notebook, patterned after a popular manga (Japanese comics), anime and live action series featuring a mysterious notebook that kills anyone whose name is written on it. Many locally-developed TV programs, such as "Lupin" and "Rounin" betray their anime origins, while "Super Twins," say anime fans, is clearly a rip-off of "Sailor Moon." Local drag racing enthusiasts have begun to take up "drift racing," Japanese-style car racing popularized in the anime series "Initial D" and the Hollywood rip-off "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift." There are also at least two manga cafés that recently opened in Metro Manila. These are cafés that offer their customers a reading library consisting of manga, quite popular in Japan but until recently, unheard of in the Philippines.

Meanwhile, some of the more fashion-conscious youths have begun to adopt

Japanese street style in their ensembles. Currently, variations of the "schoolgirl" and the "gothic Lolita" look, combining dark colors with frilly ultra-feminine touches like lace and embroidery, seem to be in vogue for girls. Guys, on the other hand, tend toward the Japanese glam rock look popularized by J-rock bands such as Gackt, Glay and L'Arc-en-Ciel. The local music scene has also seen an influx of bands influenced by Japanese pop music and anime soundtracks. Many do covers of popular anime songs, in Japanese. The name of one such band says it all: Tokyo't Baboy. So Hapon and yet so Pinoy.

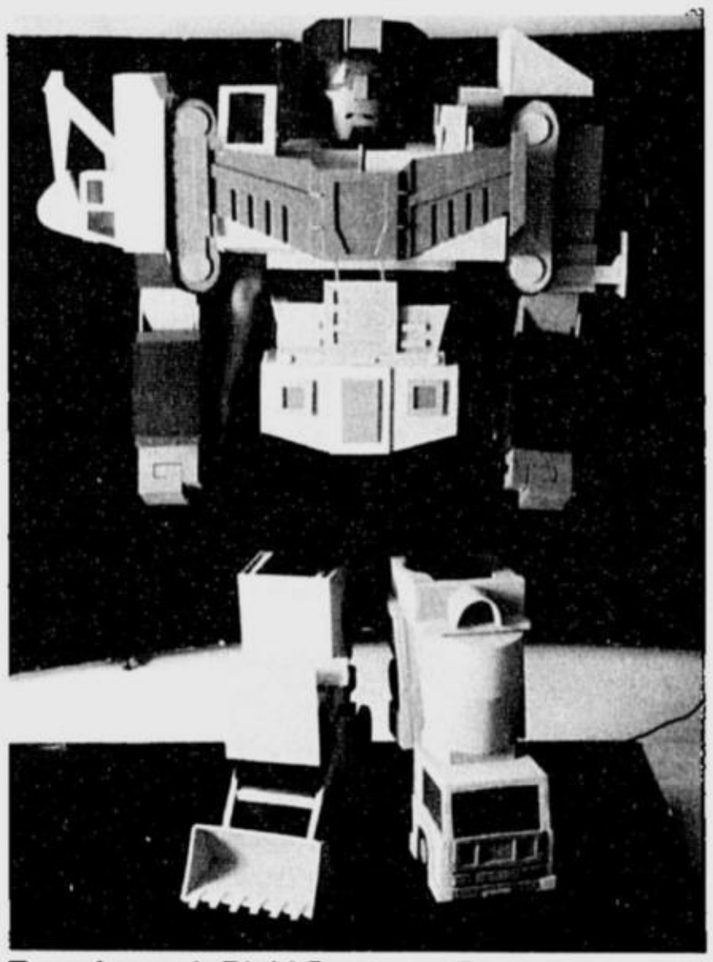
Nothing new, really. Filipinos have been avid consumers of Japanese pop culture for almost as long as the Japanese have been exporting it.

This dates me as a hopeless baby-boomer, but as a kid I used to rush home from school so I could catch "Gigantor," the first-ever mecha (giant robot) anime, as well as "The Samurai," a '60s-era TV series following the adventures of Shintaro the swordsman and his Iga ninja sidekick Tonbei the Mist as they battled the evil Koga ninja—both in sparkling black-and-white. Japanese movies were routinely shown in local movie houses: the films of Akira Kurosawa as well as the long-running Zatoichi or "Blind Swordsman" series, *kaiju* (giant monster) films such "Godzilla," plus the occasional detective thriller or *pinku* (erotic) film. The Seventies saw mecha shows such as "Voltes V" and "Mazinger Z" and *sentai* (live action) series such as "Masked Rider" and "Ultraman" win the hearts and minds of the kiddies.

By the '80s, Japanese shows had faded somewhat, but that was all right—by that time Sanrio had unleashed the multi-million dollar "Hello Kitty" global franchise and the cult of *kawaii* (cute). By the Nineties, *manga* and anime were established market forces with the emergence of hit series such as "Ranma ½" and "Dragonball Z." Meanwhile, mind-blowing films such as "Akira" and "Ghost in the Shell" had even the most reluctant critics finally acknowledging anime as a distinct art form with its own visual language. The last few years have seen Japan bounce back strong after a long recession, and its economic planners have acknowledged that IP or intellectual property exports bring in a lot of yen and play an increasingly important role in the country's recovery.

Today, Hollywood routinely cannibalizes Japanese pop culture and sells it back to us in the form of cartoon shows such as "Puffy AmiYumi" and the "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers" and remakes of J-horror films such as "The Ring" and "The Grudge." "Kill Bill" was nothing short of Quentin Tarantino's mash note to the ultraviolence of "Lone Wolf and Cub" and Sonny Chiba's "Streetfighter" series. And one of the year's most highly-anticipated films is Michael Bay's blockbuster adaptation of "Transformers," based on the Japanese toy robots.

Filipinos, however, are also going straight to the source, and diving in.



Transformed: Ricki Buzon as Devastator

"If there is anything new about the current onslaught of Japanese pop culture, it's how Filipino fans have taken it to heart and made it part of their lifestyles."

Enter the Pinoy *otaku*.

Otaku is usually translated "nerd" or "geek." Taken loosely, it means an obsessive fan: there are computer *otaku*, game *otaku*, plastic model *otaku*, pop idol *otaku* and of course, manga and anime *otaku*. Unlike casual fans, *otaku* take their fandom to extremes, such as knowing every detail about every episode of every series of Gundam, for instance. Hardcore *otaku* will be familiar with every character, know the exact details of their costumes, the various robot powers, and so on *ad nauseam*. They will collect everything to do with Gundam, the manga, the anime on DVD, the model toys. Some may even dress up in accurately detailed costumes as characters from the series, a practice known as cosplay, or "costume play."

Originally, the term "*otaku*" was negative: it meant an antisocial loner who stayed home, had no friends and had trouble relating with the outside world. Now that *otaku* has been adopted globally, however, it is seen as neutral, and sometimes even in a positive light. The current American series "Heroes," for instance, has an *otaku*-ish character named Hiro Nakamura.

In the local context, *otaku* refers to fans of manga and anime, and by extension, other aspects of Japanese pop culture.

"In the mid-'90s, I was part of an IRC (internet chatroom) called 'Pinoy *Otaku*,' and we had a 'Pinoy *Otaku*' mailing list," recalls Pablo L. Bairan III, proprietor of a graphic design studio and editor of Cosplay Magazine, a recently-launched glossy on the local cosplay scene. "It was basically just a forum for people to discuss what anime they liked, which anime were good, what were the latest and hottest things from Japan. It was like a club, but mostly online. Later on, we had 'eyeballs' (meetings) once a month. Most of the members were young, 14 to 17, but as anime became more popular, older people started getting back into it. They were *otaku* back then, in the comic book era."

"It's interesting how Pinoys have embraced Japanese pop culture," he adds. "Before, we were ostracized. '*Ang tanda mo na, nag-a*-anime *ka pa*.'"

Now, he says, most people understand that anime and manga are not just kiddie toons, but encompass a whole range of programs directed at different age groups, genders and tastes.

"*Otaku* means anime fanatics, but there are degrees of fanaticism," says Dennis Uy, general manager of *Otaku* Zine, a local monthly magazine devoted to *manga* and anime and the local *otaku* scene. "Some are regular fans, but there are hardcore fanatics who know every detail and collect all the merchandise related to their favorite

(continued on page 14)

By Regina Layug

Masquerade Mania

Cosplay—dressing up as your favorite characters—is the ultimate rite of anime devotion, especially for Pinoys

IT'S no surprise anymore when you see them on the news: girls and boys, even grown men and women, in costumes, with purple hair, giant swords, elf ears. What are these creatures? Where are they from?

Chances are they're just your neighbors, your classmates, maybe even your cousins. But they all have one extraordinary passion: anime. And they show their devotion by dressing the part.

It may be the wide range of topics, the vast array of characters, stunning display of costumes and compelling music that attract Miguel Mercado, Katrina Salumbides and Diego Manansala—young fans who aren't afraid to show just how much they love anime.

Diego, 19, a student at UP Diliman, says he follows the anime series and movies because of the stories. He was 7 when a cousin introduced him to "Ghost in the Shell." At that time, though he didn't know this was anime. "But even before that, I was already watching shows like 'Sailor Moon' and 'Dragonball.'"

Also 19, Miguel was already into anime even before he turned 8. "When I watch a particular show, it's mainly because I'm caught up in the storyline. I think the animation and production are excellent, I fancy the characters, or it's just plain hilarious. I'm attracted to characters when I'm able to see myself in them—or when I want to see myself in them—or if they affect me."

Katrina is a 24-year-old Filipino student in San Francisco, California. She goes to Fanime Con in the US every year. "I actually remember watching anime before I was even 6 years old," she says, and claims anime "often seems to have no boundaries."

Miguel Mercado suits up as Tidus

"Anime can cover a variety of genres. There are so many characters that are fun, silly, dark, mysterious, beautiful, or handsome, and they are all so enjoyable to watch. That's another thing about anime: they often have some really good designs for characters, from their physical looks to their costumes. And as an artist, I find anime to be very inspiring for what I do."

On costuming

It seems inevitable: if you like anime, you're eventually going to wind up getting yourself a costume. Why?

Katrina exclaims, "It's simply fun! It's fun to pick characters you like and to show how much you like them. Sometimes it's great to dress up as popular characters because you get noticed and it feels kind of nice. It's also fun to dress up as the more obscure characters because it's interesting to see who will recognize those characters and appreciate them."

Katrina has only put together a schoolgirl costume typical of many anime shows and movies. But she plans on attending Anime Expo, one of the largest conventions in the West Coast, which would give her an excuse "to create a really great costume."

Diego and Miguel have assembled outfits that bewilder the imagination. Both boys first saw anime cosplayers in conventions and were inspired to build their own ensembles. Says Miguel, "I attended my first Animax convention in 2003, and I envied all the active cosplayers at the event." Now Miguel has an impressive Tidus costume, based on the character from "Final Fantasy X."

Diego started out with a different take on cosplayers. "When I first saw those people back in high school, I thought they were really strange. I never thought that I would end up as one them." Now, Diego spends much of his spare time working on various costumes, such as his "Prince of Tennis" outfit.

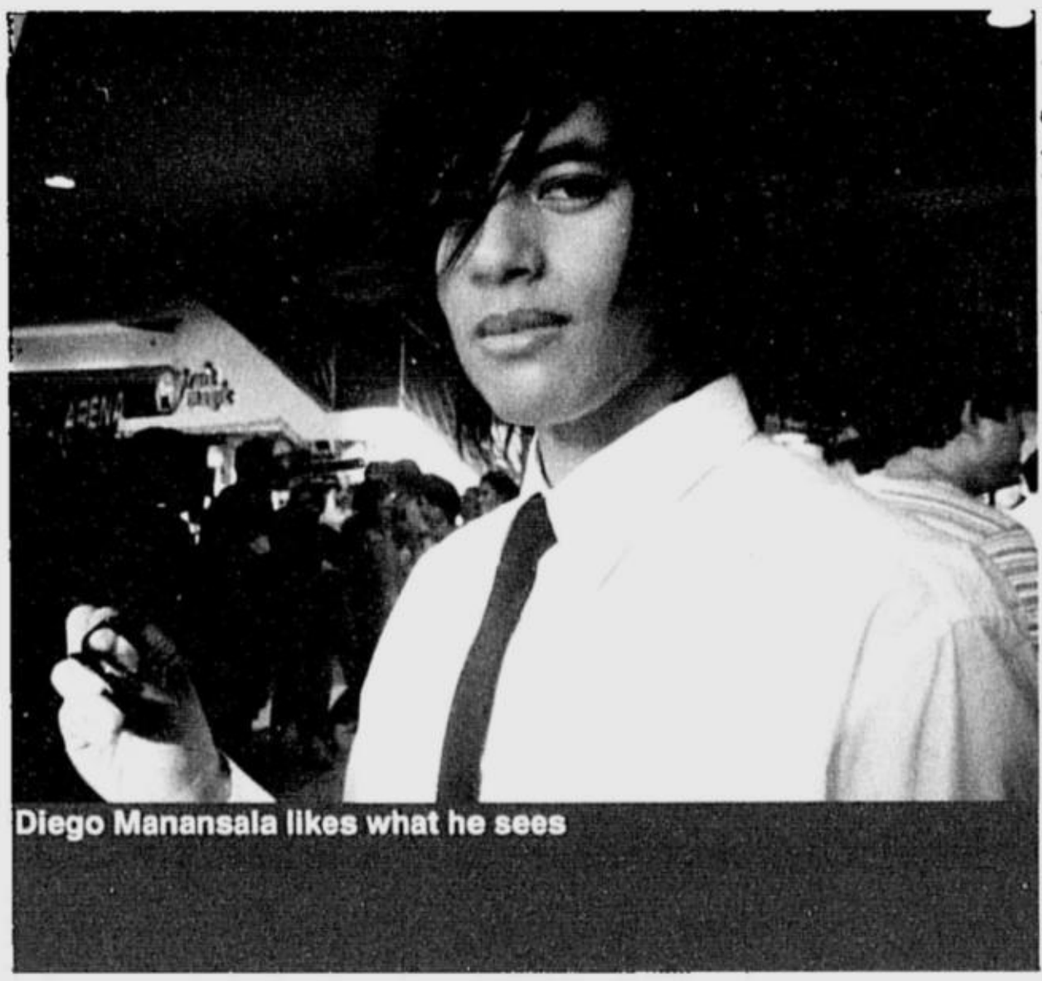
Producing these costumes isn't easy. Cosplayers often search high and low for the right fabric, the exact color and shade, and pattern. They brave *tiangges* and have their costumes custom-made, while they have to build other parts themselves, with wire, styrofoam, illustration board, clay, rubber, and other materials. Some costumes require not only cloth, armor pieces and weapons, but also other accessories like jewelry, crowns, hats, masks, socks, belts, wands. Says Diego of the costume-building experience, "Sometimes I have to spend hours or even days in *tiangges*

just to find the perfect accessory or clothes for the character I'm cosplaying."

It isn't easy, and it isn't cheap. Diego paid P680 for his "Prince of Tennis" costume, while Miguel's more complex costumes cost anywhere from P1,000 to P8,000. Katrina's costumes have cost her less than $20 because she uses materials she already owns. But many anime costumes can easily cost $50 to $100. "My next projects may range from $50-$100 for the materials alone," Katrina adds.

It may seem excessive, but Diego and Miguel's parents are supportive of their costuming. "But," Miguel adds, "when they see that I'm blowing so much cash on it, or when I'm spending more time making swords than hitting the books, they end up lecturing me."

Diego says his mother even encouraged his cosplay. "I was completely shocked," he admits, "because at that time I didn't have any plans on cosplaying, and I know that most of the time parents disapprove of it." Katrina's mother is so involved in her passion that she even choses the character for her to cosplay: "My mother keeps insisting that I dress up as the character Rinoa from Final Fantasy VIII. "



Nepherteri A. Ramirez

Diego Manansala likes what he sees

But what of other things Japanese—like, say, the Second World War, comfort women and Japayukis (Filipina entertainers in Japan)? What of the other issues which bedeviled Filipinos six decades ago, when the Japanese were considered the enemy -- issues which today's young fans of anime hardly know anything about?

Katrina acknowledges the limited perspective of Japan that her generation gets from anime. "Unfortunately, anime shows a biased view about Japanese culture," she says. "While anime does give a peek at Japanese life, it is often a stereotypical view or exaggeration. Important issues, such as WWII, comfort women, etc., are rarely ever discussed. Usually, all one can hope to find is a stereotypical family life, school life, or exaggerated historical action story."

Diego views it differently. "You really can't blame the (japayukis), because sometimes these girls don't really have a choice. This is actually a sign that there is a problem with our government, because they don't provide enough jobs for people in our country."

Would you rather be Japanese? Since Katrina, Miguel and Diego are such big fans of Japanese animation, one wonders: would you want to live in Japan? Be Japanese? Surprisingly, the answer was no.

Diego would like to live in Japan, "but I would still like to be a Filipino." Had Katrina been asked this question about five years ago, she probably would have said yes. "But having been exposed to more of Japan's culture and society, I am happy to be who I am," she says. "I would still definitely love to live in Japan for a while—but not permanently. There are aspects of the society which would stifle and frustrate me, such as racism, the slow progression of women's rights. And it's expensive! But I still like Japanese culture and society very much, which is why I chose to major in it."

Miguel perhaps says it best, "Tempting offer, but if I decide to be Japanese, then I suppose I wouldn't be Miguel Mercado." And nothing's better than being yourself, whatever you watch and whatever costumes you wear. •

www.gundamofficial.com

Figure It Out

421,808: Total number of Japanese visitors to the Philippines in 2006, ranking third overall

572,133: Total number of Korean visitors to the Philippines in 2006, ranking first overall

$16 billion: Global animation revenues in 2000

$50 billion: Global animation revenues in 2005

60: Percentage of global anime market controlled by Japan

$40 million: Total Philippine animation exports in 2004

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

Source: Department of Tourism, Inquirer Archives

By Claire Agbayani

Riding the Anime Wave

Why do Filipinos go crazy over Japanese animation? Here's why and how

www.dragonballz.com

Screen stars: "Dragonball Z" (top) and "Naruto" (below)

ANIME, or Japanese animation, is a billion-dollar industry in Japan. And just like other Japanese products that have hit our shores, this exciting import has grown more sophisticated through the decades.

Herbeth Fondevilla, an Art and Design graduate student of Comprehensive Human Sciences at Tsukuba University in Japan, did a thesis on "Contemplating the Identity of Manga in the Philippines."

In his thesis, Fondevilla quotes Jobert Bartolome and Oliver Floralde of the Program Analysis group of GMA-7 as saying that anime has been around since the 1970s and 1980s—in fact, even all the way back to the '60s—but it wasn't until the '90s that its popularity peaked.

The network's program analysis group is tasked specifically to watch programs, analyze and evaluate them, and make recommendations. Strictly speaking, GMA has no anime-dedicated department. One of its departments buys programs produced by other people or organizations outside the Philippines.

Anime is only one of their major purchases—a move obviously in response to its growing appeal, and thus,

www.naruto.com

demand from among its young viewers.

Although they are no longer on primetime in certain channels, in the past three years, anime has taken the top spot in ratings over traditional animation.

Anime has clearly taken over the lives of our youngsters. One mother complains, "My kids are going gaga over Pokemon! They watch all the shows on TV, play cards, play computer game—all Pokemon. Last month alone, I racked up a P1,000 long distance telephone bill because they were always on the phone with their cousin, talking about Pokemon."

This same mother admits though that the very popular anime series is what bonds her four children with one another, as well as with their cousins who are several miles away.

Wikipedia defines Pokemon as a "Romanized contraction of the Japanese brand 'Pocket Monsters.'" A media franchise owned by the video game giant Nintendo, it was created by Sotoshi Tajiri around 1995 and was originally released as a pair of interlinkable Game Boy role-playing video games. It has since become the second most successful and lucrative video game-based media franchise in the world, ranking second only to Nintendo's Super Mario series.

Promoting products side by side with anime is nothing new. Bartolome recalls that in the late '70s, sales of Purefoods hotdogs increased dramatically when Voltes V swords were offered free with every purchase of a pack of hotdogs. The "Voltes V" animation series was the in show then.

In an informal survey of 21 kids aged 7-13, Pokemon emerged as the favorite of most kids—over a third of the youths asked. Perhaps it helps that apart from the cartoon series kids get to watch on TV, there's a whole range of merchandise available in the market to support the children's fancy for the cute characters of Pokemon—be it anime, manga, trading cards, toys, books or other media.

Most of those devoted to Pokemon were

(continued on page 15)

By Michael L. Tan

The Hentai Question

An anthropologist weighs in on the controversial presence of adult-oriented anime in the Philippines

en.wikipedia.org

Not for kids: Hentai on display

THE first time I saw the DVDs on sale in a Quiapo sidewalk, I thought they were just another type of Japanese anime (cartoons) until I looked closely and realized that the illustrations on the cover were, to put it mildly, somewhat risqué.

"Bold anime?" I asked the vendor and he answered, "Hentai."

I did get one sample DVD and confirmed it was indeed pornographic cartoons (or, if we want to be more sophisticated, pornographic anime). I'm a very liberal person but I have to say this particular DVD left me disturbed because it featured an incestuous relationship between a mother and her son.

I've since done some research on hentai, first checking with my students and other young people and then looking at academic research around anime and Japanese sexual culture. I confirmed that these anime are extremely popular with young Filipinos who have discovered them, with a ready supply of pirated DVDs selling as low as P30 each.

The term hentai is composed of two *kanji* (Chinese characters). The *hen* means "to change" and *tai* means shape or attitude so hentai has three meanings. One is to change shape, another is metamorphosis (as in a caterpillar transformed into a butterfly). The third meaning is sexual. Depending on the context, its sexual meaning can be "naughty" but an extreme it can mean "perversion."

The term's origins are intriguing, said to have first been used in 1914 in a translation of a sexology book—Richard von Krafft-Ebing's "Psychopathia Sexualis," which was about sexual deviations. The original term was a longer *hentai seiyoku*, to mean sexual perversion. As with so many terms, an abbreviated form appeared but retained its original meaning, in this case perversion.

Hentai as sexual perversions is now used to refer to manga (comic books), anime (cartoons) and even computer games with explicit sex. H-anime (the hentai is sometimes even further abbreviated to "h" or echi) certainly lives up to its name. There's a lot of bondage (sado-masochism), sexual orgies, with all kinds of fetishes thrown in for good measure, and the occasional incest. There's something for everyone here with distinctions between heterosexual and homosexual hentai, the latter broken down to gay and lesbian, although there's likely to be a crossing of boundaries too with, for example, two men having sex even in a production that is supposed to be heterosexual.

Like other anime characters, the hentai images are surreal, often androgynous juveniles bestowed with extraordinary powers. X-Men stray into a Sailor Moon anime, Sailor Moon being dominated by female characters and yes, they end up as couples.

Hentai is fantasy but it is also defiant, almost as if to challenge Japanese society's formalism and seeming inflexibility. Some of the hentai have female characters who take the lead with sexual propositions, even dominating the males, and is seen as a a way of challenging the powerful patriarchy.

Hentai's arrival in the Philippines—in the form of both manga and anime—leaves me with mixed feelings. I do not subscribe to the idea that pornography titillates people and drives them to rape. Neither am I concerned about the nudity in pornography, and I can tell you hentai builds strongly on that kind of visual stimulation, with exaggerated genitalia.

What I do worry about are the values carried by the imagery, and this is where I would advise parents and guardians to talk with their children. In Japan itself, hentai would be strictly restricted to those aged 18 and over. In the Philippines, younger children can buy them off sidewalks together with X-rated films that depict real people.

In Japan, the fantasy aspect of hentai is clear. The eroticism is not really new, given that Japan has a long tradition of *shunga* (erotic pictures). In the Philippines, hentai is imported at the height of a love of things Japanese without necessarily understanding its context. Over at the University of the Philippines, we even have a student organization dedicated to anime. (I do not know if they include hentai as legitimate anime.)

(continued on page 12)

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	2		5		6			
5							3	
					2	9		
3			1			4		7
8		6			9			2
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	1							8
			3		5		7	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Answer to previous puzzle

9	3	8	5	4	7	1	2	6
4	5	2	8	1	6	3	7	9
6	1	7	2	3	9	8	4	5
8	6	1	7	5	4	2	9	3
3	2	5	1	9	8	7	6	4
7	4	9	3	6	2	5	8	1
2	9	3	6	7	5	4	1	8
1	8	6	4	2	3	9	5	7
5	7	4	9	8	1	6	3	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Hello Koreatown! (from page 5)

your selection of *banchan* (small plates of kimchi, pickled vegetables, and other side dishes) alongside your barbecue for extra flavor. Dong Won offers a whole array of meats—pork, chicken, seafood—to barbecue so all you have to do is take your pick, watch them cook it in front of you, and enjoy. The ox tongue is very thinly sliced, unlike the lengua we Filipinos are used to, making it lettuce sandwich-easy; the pork is sliced a little thicker, each with a slab of fat which I skeptically believe is for their Filipino clientele; but the chicken is the winner in this restaurant, as it's tender, cut in bite-size pieces for maximum juiciness and with just the right hint of Korean spice.

This Korean barbecue may also be enjoyed at Lee Jo, which is on Orion Street, just off Polaris. Lee Jo is another neighborhood favorite. In fact, I enjoyed their barbecue more than my barbecue experience at Dong Won. But what I would come back for at this restaurant is something called *doganitang*, a broth with the kneebone of cattle. Now nothing beats *bulalo* for this patriot, but this Korean delicacy comes close. I can still feel the soft, sticky kneecap on my back teeth! Ah, to eat with reckless abandonment and betray yourself by camouflaging fat in broth.

Health deception aside, what I admire most about Korean cuisine is the method and culture involved in enjoying it: how the kimchi is served before the meal, how the barbecues are fumelessly cooked before you; and most of all, how greens are injected in almost every dish to balance off the spice and, in other dishes, the fat. After my tour, I dare say Koreatown is worth a spicy, healthy, kimchi-ful food trip. •

Dong Won Garden. 53 Polaris cor. Jupiter Sts. Tel. 898-3558.
Ma San Garden. 29 Polaris St. Tel. 896-93-95.
Lee Jo. 4 Orion St.

The Hentai Question (from page 10)

Yikes: A scene from a hentai release

Hentai also comes at a time when cheap DVD technology has led to an explosion of pornography, even as conservatives insist on imposing a silence—in homes and in schools—about sexual issues. Hentai, while sold in sidewalks, is still viewed secretly, with little possibility of rational guidance and discussion.

Hentai probably acts as an outlet, as a kind of relief for Japanese who feel hemmed in by their society. With hentai here to stay in the Philippines, we will have to ask, what does it do for Filipinos? •

Turning Into Japan (from page 2)

A Pinoy cosplayer strikes a pose

nurtured the musical lives of local J-Rock cover bands. NEOtaku, tRANCE and Himitsu Heiki have progressed into solid power pop stars while Do 'Ahou and Progeny took their edgy rock to powerful exhilarating highs.

The Society has promoted a series of bar concerts that not only showcased the pleasures of J-Rock but also challenged the creative prowess of cover bands. The Ongaku Sessions in October 2005 featured musicians sitting in with other bands just for the fun of it. Performances at Ongaku Fusion in 2006 saw bands performing a Pinoy rock number and two J-Rock covers. The recent Ongaku Rewind at Freedom Bar in April witnessed the likes of NEOtaku, Progeny, Do 'Ahou and Himitsu Heiki injecting Japanese soul into the new wave of Billy Idol, Duran Duran and Boy George.

"It's the next best thing to flying off to Tokyo and watching J-Rock bands in the flesh," gushes Rotch Dumlao, the garrulous moderator of the Ongaku website. "And you still get the whole J-Rock scene along with the music." "It's good clean fun," adds Jill Solidum, administrator of the Ongaku website. "Definitely no drugs in our concert parties. Really, we already spend a lot of money on imported J-Rock CDs, there's none left for non-essentials, much less drugs."

The Ongaku Society expands its reach to its community through Internet technology. The most active section of the website is the Forums where members as well as casual visitors can view and join the discussion on diverse topics such as J-Rock and videogames, punk and pop rock, solo performers, jazz and fusion, and traditional Japanese music.

It's the same Web through which J-Rock fans get updates on the music. Track samples from new releases are available on specific websites for download on iPods for personal review and to share with others. The fan may then decide to purchase the CD, which normally goes for P400 a pop.

The Society also helps expose its stable of cover bands to a wider audience. The J-Rock groups can be contracted to play in exhibits and conventions such as Japan Foundation Manila's Nihongo Fiesta and TOEI Animation Philippines' TOEInty Anime. Some of the bands worked on the revised soundtrack for the re-release of the "Voltes V" movie for ABS-CBN's Hero TV cable channel. NEOtaku is currently in the studio producing promotional tracks for a series of manga called Project Stage Two, to be released by Psicom Publishing later this year.

Despite the worldwide success of such J-Rock idols as Utada Hikaru and L'Arc-en-Ciel (French for rainbow), local record distributors still do not carry J-Rock titles in their catalog. Ongaku moderator Rotch recalls that there was a plan to release J-Rock titles three years ago, but the sudden surge in popularity of Chinese and Korean telenovelas (and the soundtrack artists behind them) put the plan on hold.

The continuing success of anime as youth entertainment, and the fact that anime aka J-Rock fans have spending power—they import CDs don't they?—may yet lead to an unexpected boon for local fans. For the time being, the online community is enough distraction to sustain their obsession for rock from the Land of the Rising Sun. •

First Exposure

Ongaku Society recommends that beginners in J-Rock should listen first to the following artists to get the full measure and pleasure from contemporary Japanese music:

1. L'Arc-en-Ciel
2. Utada Hikaru
3. Orange Range
4. X-Japan
5. Do As Infinity

When Pinoy Otakus Attack! (from page 6)

Changes: Jac Ting Lim gets into character

anime."

Otaku Zine has been running for two years now, and Uy says the ranks of Pinoy *otaku* have been swelling.

"We've been doing our own event for two years now, the O-Zine Fest, and it's always jam-packed," he says. "That's where you'll see all the true-blooded anime fanatics. The way they dress, the way they act, what they eat—they're in their own world of anime."

"I would consider myself a Pinoy *otaku*," says Ricki Buzon, 24, a call center agent. "I'm a cosplay, anime and videogame *otaku*. It's part of my system already. I keep myself updated on what's new in anime and videogames through the net, and that's where I get my costume ideas." Buzon also plays bass for an anime theme cover band.

"I'm not really a hardcore *otaku*," says Robert Jeric B. Ong, 19, a pharmacy student at UST. However, Ong likes to dress as Kakashi, a character from the popular anime "Naruto," which some might find hardcore enough. He also belongs to Tomasino Otaku, the UST organization for anime and manga fans. (Other schools have counterparts, such as the UP Anime and Manga Enthusiasts and De La Salle's Nihon Kenkyu-Kai.)

Cosplaying is probably the most flamboyant expression of the *otaku* sensibility. Although it originated in Japan, not all cosplaying is Japanese-inspired. There are quite a few cosplayers who dress up as characters from Star Wars or "The Lord of the Rings," for instance, or as characters from local series such as "Encantadia." Part fashion design, part performance art, part makeup and special effects, cosplaying is a world unto itself. It can range from donning a store-bought Stormtrooper costume from Star Wars, to spending weeks and thousands of pesos constructing a scale-perfect costume of Devastator from the Transformers out of rubber sheeting and glue.

"It was only in 2000, during Anime Explosion 2000, that people got the idea of wearing costumes, emulating Japanese cosplayers," says Bairan. A novelty in the beginning, cosplaying has become so popular that it is now a major part of any event or gathering. There are several local websites devoted to cosplaying, as well as the aforementioned Cosplay Magazine. For many cosplayers, their hobby takes fandom to the next level: from their inner

Rudy Esperas

Sharp series: "Rurouni Kenshin," aka "Samurai X"

world into the real world.

"*Otaku* is seen as a boy's club, but here in the Philippines, we outnumber the male cosplayers two to one," says Joy Bordador, 23, an account manager at K2 Interactive and regular cosplayer. She also runs a local cosplay website (www.fil.cosplay.ph). "We see these characters that we really like and we want to become them because some part of their personality resonates with us."

"It's a hobby," says cosplayer Richelle Tamayo, 23, a graphic artist at E-Games, a game development company. "This is what we do with our weekends. Others go bar-hopping. We do cosplay."

"It's my form of self-expression," says cosplayer Jac Ting Lim, 28, a graphic artist at Matahari Studios, also a game development company. "The social part of it is just a perk. I've always been into crafts, and I used to make the props and costumes when I was in elementary and high school. When cosplaying became popular, I took it as a chance to express myself and use my skills."

Before, cosplay events took place two or three times a year. Now there's one every month.

"That's proof that *otaku* fandom is becoming more mainstream in the Filipino context," says Bordador. "Cosplaying is seen by marketing companies as a way to pull in more people in their events."

Some people might ask: what's so Pinoy about the Pinoy *otaku*?

"We're taking a lot of elements of Japanese culture and trying to make them our own, fitting them into our own culture," says Tanya Mitzeiko Obedoza, administrator of cosplay.ph, another local cosplay website.

A case in point might be the local J-rock/J-pop-inspired music scene. Many of the bands in the scene start out as anime theme cover bands (remember how school marching bands used to cover the "Voltes V" theme?) Eventually, however, some of them end up writing original songs. There are several bands, with names like NEOtaku and Himitsu Heiki, loosely federated under the banner of the Ongaku Society, an organization of J-music enthusiasts that hosts concerts, runs its own website (www.ongaku-society.org), and organizes events such as the recently concluded International Nana Day, a celebration of the cult *shojo* (girl's) manga and anime "Nana."

And neither is the Philippines the only country experiencing the new Japanese invasion. Other Asian countries have long been adapting Japanese pop culture to their own needs. Taiwan's "Meteor Garden," for instance, is actually based on a Japanese manga and live action series called "Hana Yori Dango," which fans of San Cai and F4 are now rediscovering. Even the West is looking to Japan for inspiration, not just in the form of movie remakes, but also in fashion and art. The BBC even produced a three-series documentary called "Japanorama" surveying the breadth and depth of Japanese pop culture.

Clearly, Pinoy *otaku*-dom is still a work-in-progress, and the Japanese wave hasn't crested yet. •

en.wikipedia.org

A scene from "Pokemon"

boys, although 9-year-old Karen Angala Shy swears "It's the best anime ever!" The adoration for this anime apparently cuts across ages. Quite a number of the children polled—mostly boys of various ages—also mentioned "Naruto." "It's cool and action-packed, with ninjas with cool powers who move, jump and run fast," says 10-year-old Francis Bunsoy. "Dragonball Z" is also a favorite, Gabriel Joshua Floresca, 12, explains, because of "its cool story and awesome characters"; and Bleach, because "they fight bad guys and monsters, they're quick to attack, and are funny too," adds 12-year-old Rene Joshua "RJ" Bunsoy.

What is the profile of anime viewers? Market information and consumer insights from a study conducted by the ABS-CBN Research and Business Analysis group profiles them as kids aged two to 12, who watch three to four hours, and teeners who spend anywhere from two to three hours on TV viewing on weekdays. All these age groups of children watch more cable on weekends than on weekdays.

How popular is anime? The sheer number of anime shows on cable is proof of their popularity: "There's Animax, Hero TV, Cartoon Network, even AXN. You have an entire channel devoted solely to anime," Floralde notes.

"Naruto," which tied with "Bleach" and "Dragonball Z" for the number two spot in our poll, is the top-rating anime series of Hero TV, a 20-hour cable channel that combines anime, cartoons and youth entertainment programs. Channel Producer Ruel Ferrer says that Hero TV is the first Filipino-dubbed channel that's packaged for Filipino youths aged 6-18. It targets the ABC and broad C socio-economic classes, and is heavily skewed to boys—what with action-packed cartoons, display of power, and powerful and vibrant colors.

Hero TV has two ways of sourcing shows: it acquires anime and live action shows ("G.I. Joe," "Power Rangers," "Masked Rider"), and locally produces "G3" (pronounced "G cube")—which is all about Games, Gigs and Gadgets.

And when they acquire shows, "We get screeners who evaluate if it fits our channel. We study the plot, the characters, and if the viewers can relate to the content as a whole," says Ferrer. Hero TV, he says, is viewer-centric.

Although there are more serious anime fans, Floralde says, most of the followers of the series are there simply for the enjoyment of watching the animated characters. "*Hindi sila naghahanap ng malalim* (they are not looking for anything profound)," he explains.

Ferrer says that this market likes Filipino-dubbed anime because of the following:

- detailed graphics, proper dubbing, conversational Filipino dialogue
- fast-paced and great fight/ action scenes;
- showcase or clash of powers, and various adventures
- the triumph of good vs. evil; and
- interesting and colorful characters and a sense of belonging.

There's always been an allegation that anime are violent, and one of the theories forwarded by observers was that former President Marcos banned "Voltes V" decades ago because "a lot of the kids were jumping out of windows"!

But Ferrer says, "In our channel, we edit out the gore." Scenes which are perceived to be inappropriate for children are moved to the 12 midnight to 2 a.m. block when children are supposed to be asleep.

Why do certain parents approve of anime? "It stimulates the imagination, has morals and reflects positive values, tones down the perception of violence due to its animated content, dwelling more on the moral side of the story," says Ferrer. "It also serves as a reward for kids after a hard day at school and gives them an opportunity to bond with other kids." Ferrer said these were reflected in the market information and consumer insights of their research and business analysis group.

Bartolome thinks the phenomenal popularity of anime is because young people can easily relate to the themes of the stories. To this Floralde adds, "Anime is able to communicate to young people in a meaningful way. It penetrates the psyche of young people."

Ferrer furthers that anime programs help kids in that they show these: "How did the character display power, overcome evil, help his friends; or together with his friends, how was he able to solve the problem?"

He also notes that the anime programs that rate are usually related to sports, like "Slam Dunk" and "Dragonball Z." Then there are stories young viewers can identify with, because of characters such as kids and schoolboys. "More than anything though, it's about kids with power. That's what really works—and rates," says Floralde.•

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ENTERTAINMENT/ E1

TV sitcom not dead, just case of audience fatigue, says exec

BUSINESS/ B1

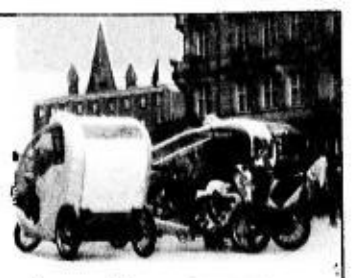
Chinese shipping experts see $3-B cargo hub at Sangley Point

NEWS/ A2

2 planes collide in midair in Bulacan; 3 killed

BUSINESS / B2-1

Asia's pedicabs find way to Rome, Paris, London



PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, July 9, 2007 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 211 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Pope approves wider use of old Latin Mass

VATICAN CITY—IN A MAJOR GESTURE TO traditional, conservative Roman Catholics, Pope Benedict XVI on Saturday authorized the wider use of the old Latin Mass, dismissing fears that its revival could divide the Church or dilute the reforms of the Second Vatican Council that made standard worship in the languages of Catholics around the world.

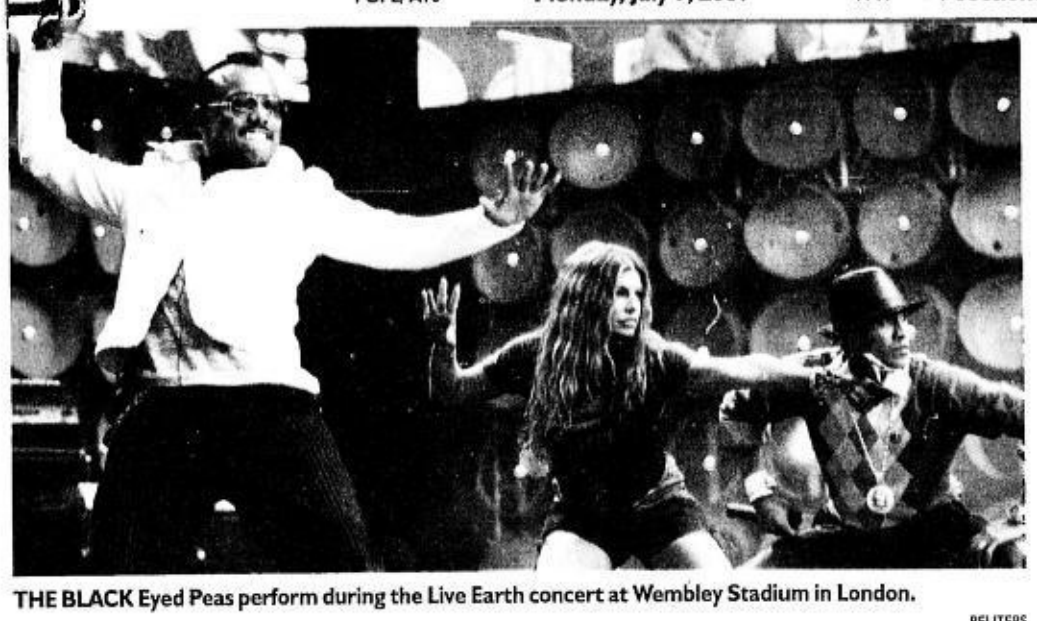
POPE/ A10

Sevens keep turning up but Grace says it's prayers

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer N. Luzon

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA Vizcaya—Isabela Gov. Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca may not be a superstitious person, but she knows she has been

SEVENS/ A13



THE BLACK Eyed Peas perform during the Live Earth concert at Wembley Stadium in London. REUTERS

Stars rock around the world in fight vs global warming

EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERsey—In a 24-hour music marathon spanning seven continents, some of the world's biggest pop stars shared the spotlight with politicians, aboriginal elders and famous scientists to drum home the dangers of global warming and urge the world to go green.

In a series of Live Earth concerts, tens of thousands partied in Sydney, Tokyo, Shanghai, Hamburg, Johannesburg, London, Washington, New Jersey and Rio de Janeiro to hear rock stars from the Red Hot Chili Peppers, the Black Eyed Peas and The Police to Madonna and Bon Jovi.

The performers urged their fans to turn interest in the Live Earth events into environmental activism.

"Put all of this energy in your heart and help us solve the climate crisis," said former US Vice President Al Gore, appearing onstage at the end of the final concert on Saturday at Giants Stadium in New Jersey.

With even a band of scientists performing at a research station in Antarctica, organizers called Live Earth the biggest musical event ever staged, dwarfing the Live Aid and Live 8 concerts.

Live Earth venues featured aboriginal elders, a holographic Gore and more than 100 of the biggest names in music.

Among the stranger moments was primatologist Jane Goodall telling the New Jersey crowd, "I'm going to start by giving you

STARS/ A21

RP has 2 world champs

Gonzales tells envoy rescue will not be easy

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Christine O. Avendaño

WHILE PHOTOS OF KIDNAPPED Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi have raised hopes that he is still alive, Malacañang is downplaying the chances of getting him out in one piece from the clutches of a ruthless bandit group.

"We told her not to be too optimistic as we are dealing with the Abu Sayyaf," National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said yesterday, referring to Margherita Boniver, the Italian lawmaker who arrived in Manila on Thursday for talks with authorities on efforts to obtain Bossi's release.

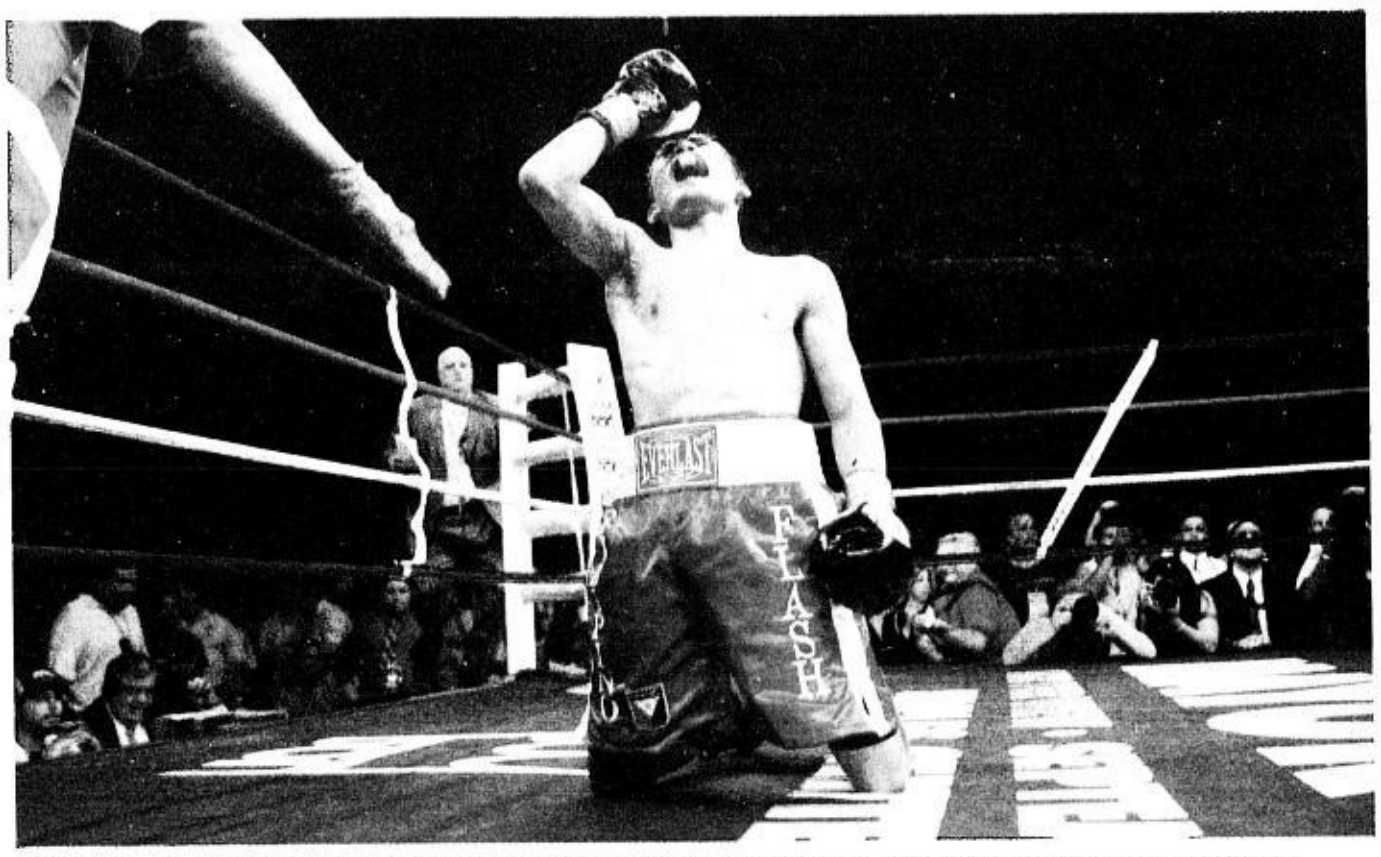
Boniver met with Gonzales in Malacañang on Friday before her meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"What we are saying is it won't be easy or quick, especially given the kind of people that we are dealing with. This is what we told her," said Gonzales, who is also officer in charge of the defense department.

Gonzales is the first high-ranking official to implicate the Abu Sayyaf in the Bossi abduction.

Military officials previously

GONZALES/ A20



NONITO Donaire celebrates his knockout victory over erstwhile unbeaten world champion Vic Darchinyan of Australia in Bridgeport, Connecticut. REUTERS

Underdog boxers win titles in US, Indonesia

JAKARTA—IN WHAT will go down as one of the most rousing weekends for Philippine boxing in recent memory, two woefully underdog Filipino fighters won world championships less than 24 hours apart in Indonesia and the United States.

Florante Condes showed tremendous fighting heart in flooring champion Muhammad Rachman twice en route to snatching the International Boxing Federation mini-flyweight (105-lb) crown via a split decision on Saturday night in the studio of the private RCTI television station in Jakarta.

In Bridgeport, Connecticut, unheralded Filipino-American Nonito Donaire knocked out the previously undefeated IBF and International Boxing Organization flyweight champion, Vic Darchinyan, in the fifth round of their scheduled 12-rounder.

Condes and Donaire thus became the only reigning Philip-

RP HAS 2/ A13

Housing scams victimizing OFWs probed

By Leila B. Salaverria

OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs) are falling prey not only to Internet-based Ponzi investment schemes but also to housing scams.

Haunted by the thought of an OFW spending his or her hard-earned money on a house that would never materialize, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has begun looking into alleged housing scams in which people were duped into buying townhouses or condo units that remained unfinished.

On Wednesday, the National Bureau of Investigation arrested an alleged top official of a group that operates "Francswiss" online, a pyramiding scheme believed to have duped investors in the country of P1 billion.

No housing developer or seller, however, has been reported arrested in connection with housing deals that went sour.

Gonzalez said he would schedule a meeting this week with Vice President Noli de Castro and Commissioner Romulo Fabul of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) to discuss what could be done to stop the scams and to help people tricked into entering into questionable housing transactions.

De Castro, who Gonzalez said had signified his intention to be involved in the issue, is chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

HOUSING/ A21

Sandiganbayan verdict won't spark insurrection

By Amando Doronila

A FULL-PAGE AD THAT APpeared on Wednesday in six broadsheets, including the INQUIRER, calling on citizens to respect the rule of law in the imminent decision of the Sandiganbayan in the plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada has sparked a tempest of partisan extrajudicial interventions that bode ill for the conclusion of the 6-year-old case.

ANALYSIS

Every sentence of the ad, only seven short paragraphs, was loaded with contentious words.

The title, "Erap: Guilty or not guilty. Kailangan bang may gulo?" warned that "there will be some who may exploit it to sow discord and destabilize the country."

The ad urged the public to "stand firm against them." It said: "The court will soon promulgate its verdict—guilt or innocence. Our duty is to uphold the rule of law. This is the way of democracy. Due process has been observed ... Let her rule of law prevail."

The executive clerk of court, Renato Bocar, immediately shot down rumors that the Sandiganbayan would hand down a decision any time this month. He noted that the court had 90 days until mid-September to promulgate the decision, according to constitutional procedures. The court began the countdown on June

SANDIGANBAYAN / A20

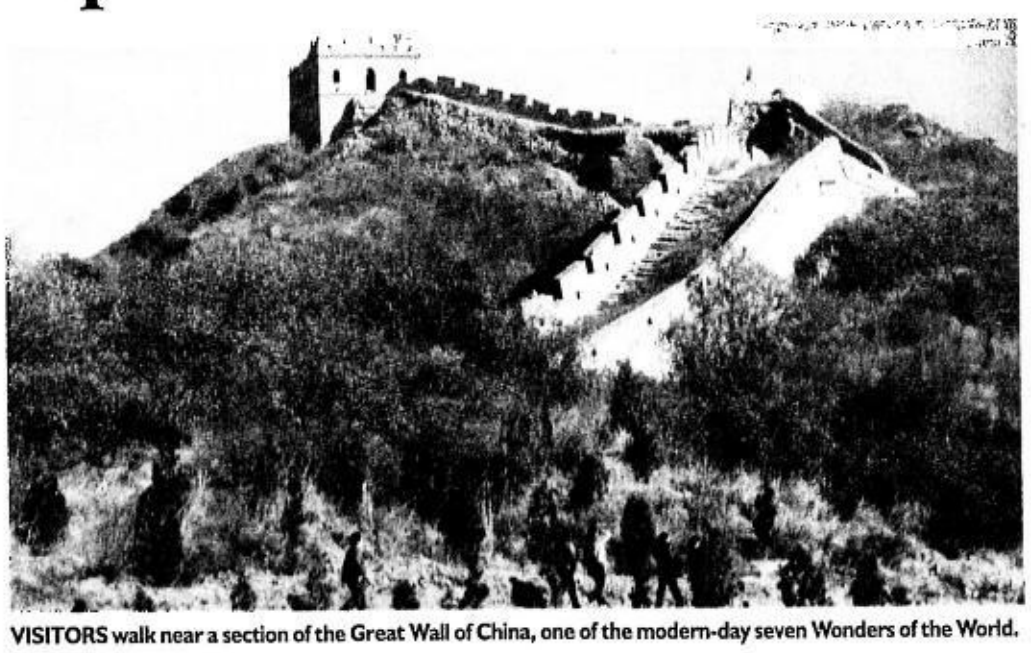
100M voters pick 7 'new' world wonders

LISBON, PORTUGAL—THE GREAT Wall of China, the Colosseum in Rome and the Taj Mahal in India were among the seven "new" wonders of the world selected by nearly 100 million Internet and telephone voters, upsetting purists and cultural experts.

The other new wonders named were the centuries-old pink ruins of Petra in Jordan and three architectural marvels in Latin America—the statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro, the Incan ruins of Machu Picchu in Peru, and the ancient Mayan city of Chichen Itza in Mexico.

British actor Ben Kingsley and US actress Hillary Swank hosted the celebrity-studded ceremony at Lisbon's Stadium of Light, which was broadcast in more than 170 countries to an estimat-

100M VOTERS/ A12



VISITORS walk near a section of the Great Wall of China, one of the modern-day seven Wonders of the World.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, JULY 9, 2007

EZ2 22 1 | Mid-Day 0 2 8 | SUERTRES 1 8 9 Evening
(All in exact order)

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Western Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/07/08/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Antiterror law road show on

Cagayan de Oro meet kicks off gov't push for Human Security Act

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., *in Manila*
and Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez, *Inquirer Mindanao*

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO WILL MEET with her Cabinet security cluster tomorrow in Cagayan de Oro City in the first leg of public consultations on the Human Security Act which is set to take effect on July 15.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales in his capacity as defense department officer in charge said the antiterror law was all set for implementation but its organizational structure was still being finalized.

"We've already complied with most of the requirements but I'm not sure how complete our organization is because we have to identify members of the office that would implement it," he said.

Gonzales, however, was mum on what changes would be adopted to fine-tune the HSA which has been heavily criticized even before it could take effect.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Defense Undersecretary Ric Blancaflor would lead the information campaign on the HSA in partnership with other departments such as Justice and interior and local government.

"The campaign will focus not only on the provisions of the law but its contextual backdrop—the existence of terror cells throughout our region and the world," said Bunye.

Gonzales reassured the public the HSA had enough safeguards to prevent its abuse. "There is nothing to fear really, we only have a few terrorists in the country. The law is there to protect the public, not to harm them," he said.

Yesterday, Blancaflor also allayed fears so-called terror suspects would immediately be arrested once the HSA took effect.

"You must commit a terrorist act before you can be arrested," Blancaflor said in a phone interview. "The terrorist act has to happen after the effectivity of the law," he added. Blancaflor is the spokesperson of the Anti-Terrorism Task Force.

He said the proscription process itself was a tedious one.

Supt. Aurelio Trampe Jr., Cagayan de Oro police director, said they expect about 500 participants to attend the two-day consultation, dubbed the "Mindanao Peace and Order Summit" to be held at the Pryce Plaza beginning today.

Expected to attend the summit are leaders and experts in the security field from the government, business, religious and the academe, according to NSA Senior Deputy Director General Lt. Gen. Victor Mayo.

The summit aims to identify problems and difficulties faced in fighting terrorists from the perspectives of the stakeholders and to agree on an action agenda to strengthen local mechanisms for counterterrorism, according to a government handout.

Trampe said they expect militant groups to hold protest actions but this would not hinder the consultation.

He said security had been tightened at the venue and in other areas of the city.

The implementation of the HSA is seen to boost the government's antiterror campaign but other sectors have warned it would only worsen human rights abuses.

Washington has lauded the HSA, saying it was important in the fight against global terrorism.

"I think the Philippines is doing a spectacular job of working to prevent terrorists from [establishing] sanctuaries in this country and recent events in London showed just how really careful you have to be, how really dangerous international terrorists are," US Ambassador Kristie Kenney said.

The United States and the Philippines have long been allies in the campaign against terrorism. ***With reports from Alcuin Papa, Tarra Quismundo, Christine O. Avendaño, in Manila and Aquiles Zonio, Jeoffrey Maitem and Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao***

'RP could've gotten better Jpepa deal'

By Norman Bordadora

TOKYO—ONE OF JAPAN'S LEADING economists who helped draft the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) said the Philippines could have gotten a better deal than the one up for ratification by the incoming Senate.

Dr. Shujiro Urata of Waseda University Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies told visiting journalists from Southeast Asia he felt "discouraged" upon learning a cap would be placed on the number of Filipino nurses allowed into Japan under Jpepa.

"The most controversial provision I think is [the one setting] limits on the number of nurses allowed into Japan. When I learned that limits would be placed I was discouraged," Urata said during the question and answer portion of his lecture to the journalists.

The economics professor said the requirement that Filipino nurses must know written and spoken Nihongo would have sufficed to limit the number that could come in.

"I thought the requirement for Filipino nurses to have Japanese literacy skills would have been enough to decide who should be let in," he said.

Urata said the Japanese government also had a tendency to protect its agriculture sector too much. This, he said, made it difficult for Japan to clinch bilateral free trade agreements with such countries as Thailand and the Philippines.

"There really is no point in being too protectionist. With the average age of Japanese farmers now at 70 years old, in 10 years there may no longer be an agriculture sector to protect," Urata said in his lecture.

The Jpepa is just one of several bilateral free trade agreements being negotiated by Japan with Southeast Asian countries.

Some of its provisions are similar to those in the existing Japan-Singapore Economic Partnership Agreement.

"The bilateral agreement with Singapore covers the free trade of goods and services except rice and agriculture," Urata said.

Still, Urata said, the Jpepa was worth ratifying by the Philippine Senate.

"It will benefit both Japan and the Philippines. I hope it will get ratified," he said.

He said the danger of toxic waste entering the Philippines under Jpepa was a non-issue.

"It's only being raised by protectionists in your country. Can you tell me where the environmental groups in your country are getting their funding?" Urata said.

Urata's belief the Philippines won't becoming a dumping ground of Japan's poisonous waste was shared by a Japanese foreign ministry official.

"I really hope your Senate ratifies the agreement. I don't know the provisions on toxic waste... but it may be an issue being raised by those who really do not want the agreement to be passed," said Kautoshi Aikawa, director of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Office on Asia Pacific Affairs.

3 killed as 2 planes collide over Bulacan

By Tarra Quismundo, *in Manila*
and Carmela Reyes, *in Central Luzon*

TWO LIGHT PLANES COLLIDED IN THE air during training flights over Bulacan yesterday afternoon, killing the two pilot-trainees and an instructor, officials of the Air Transportation Office (ATO) said yesterday.

Reports reaching ATO's Operations Center (OpCen) in Manila said two Cessna planes crashed into each other near the Plaridel Airport in Barangay Ligas, Malolos City, at around 1 p.m. yesterday.

"They were two planes from two different pilot schools based in Manila but training at the Plaridel airport. They collided midair... We are now finding out the probable cause but, based on experience, maybe the pilots experienced blind spots and they did not see each other," said ATO chief Nilo Jatico by phone from Ozamis City.

Supt. Manuel Lukban, Malolos police chief, identified the fatalities as Reena Salve, 18, pilot of the two-seater Cessna plane with body marking RP 8696; Patrick Philip Teruel, pilot of the other Cessna plane with body marking RP 2679 and Varsha Gopinanth, 25, a student pilot flying with Teruel.

Lukban said Salve and Gopinanth were Indians.

He said the two planes took off from an airfield in Plaridel town and were bound for Metro Manila when they collided and crashed in Purok Ilang-Ilang, Barangay Ligas, at 12:55 p.m.

Glicero Garcia, a councilman of Ligas, said he and his neighbors saw the planes flying above a school building in the village. He said they suspected the planes were experiencing trouble from the unusual sound of their engines.

Garcia said the wings of the planes touched before they crashed in a ricefield some 250 meters from the school.

He said the planes just missed the house of Rodolfo Principe, another village councilman.

Garcia said they believed the pilots purposely avoided crashing into the cluster of houses and tried to land in the ricefield.

Jatico said the planes were close to the airport and were possibly on approach for touch-and-go landings when the incident happened.

"It's a simple aircraft where you have to look out and see if another plane is already close, just like you would when driving a car," said Jatico.

ATO Accident Investigation Board chief Capt. Jose Saplan said two air crash investigators from the AIB had been sent to the site.

"Allegedly, they were on training flights and collided midair. But we don't know why it happened and we will investigate that," Saplan said.

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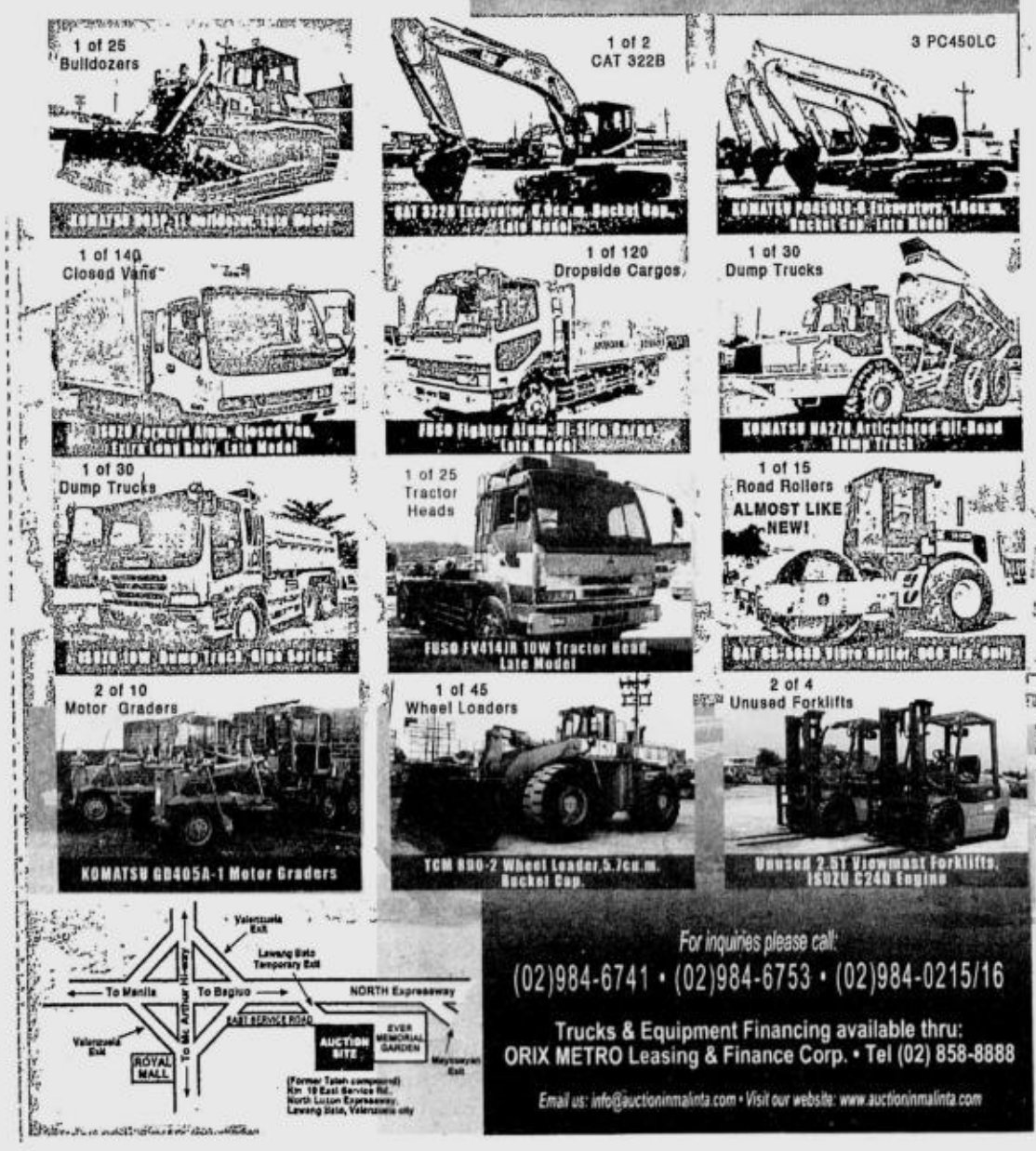

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Erap backers first to test Lim policy on Mendiola

By Allison W. Lopez
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A HANDFUL OF SUPPORTERS OF DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada were the first to hold a protest rally on historic Mendiola bridge—since renamed the Chino Roces Bridge—after Mayor Alfredo Lim lifted a tacit ban imposed by his predecessor on demonstrations on the bridge that leads to Malacañang.

Armed with a permit from the mayor's office, fewer than 50 Estrada supporters staged the two-hour rally yesterday morning.

They were led by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Linggoy Alcuaz of the Oust Gloria Coalition, Rez Cortez of the FPJ Movement and Sonny Rivera from the office of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

Alcuaz said the protest, which began after 10 a.m., aimed to dramatize Estrada's "innocence" of the plunder charges filed against him; to call for the release of Trillanes from detention, and to protest alleged electoral fraud in Maguindanao.

Estrada, who is under house arrest in Tanay, Rizal, is awaiting the verdict of the Sandiganbayan, which heard his case. Trillanes is in a military jail facing coup d'etat charges.

Though Alcuaz admitted that attendance was low because some members did not want to rally on their "family day," he said that being permitted to mass upon Mendiola bridge "made a big difference symbolically."

"From Chino Roces Bridge, *tanaw mo na ang* Malacañang (You can see Malacañang). Warm-up *lang itong* rally *na ito* (This is just a warm-up)," he said.

The rally dispersed peacefully at around 12:30 p.m.

Alcuaz said that in a meeting on Friday, Lim told them he would allow protest marches in Manila so long as they would not hamper traffic and were held on weekends and holidays.

"Never did (former Mayor Lito) Atienza give us a permit to march on the streets," he said.

While Alcuaz said he respected the decision of the mayor to allow rallies only on weekends and holidays, he said the law guaranteed their right to peaceably assemble—any day of the week.

"We'll take it a step at a time. The law never said anything about a no-rally zone," he said in Filipino.

Mendiola bridge was renamed Chino Roces Bridge in honor of the late newspaper publisher who led many demonstrations there to protest martial law.

In Jan. 22, 1987, 13 farmers demanding genuine land reform were killed and over 80 were wounded around the bridge.

Ironically, Lim was the chief of police of the Western District at the time.

Malacañang, meanwhile, downplayed yesterday fears of massive protests arising from the possible conviction of Estrada by the Sandiganbayan, saying the former movie actor's mass base had dwindled.

"We are preparing for the public's reaction but based on our observations in the last 12 months, the rallies held by (Estrada) supporters had not been that big. The participants are getting fewer so I guess the government should not be overly alarmed," said defense officer in charge Norberto Gonzales in an interview.

The Sandiganbayan is expected to come out with its decision on the plunder case against Estrada soon.

Trillanes bills seek hike in soldiers' pay

NEWLY ELECTED SEN. ANTONIO F. TRILLANES IV has filed two bills in the Senate seeking to boost the soldiers' welfare and their families' living conditions.

The bills, Senate Bill Nos. 751 and 752, provide for an increase in combat duty pay and subsistence allowance, respectively, of all officers and enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and ensure that funds for the increases are made available in the national budget.

"Professionalism in the armed forces and adequate remuneration and benefits of its members shall be a prime concern of the state," said Trillanes, quoting Section 5, Article XVI of the Constitution, in explaining the two legislative proposals.

Under SB 751, the combat duty pay of AFP officers and enlisted men will be increased by 25 percent of their base pay.

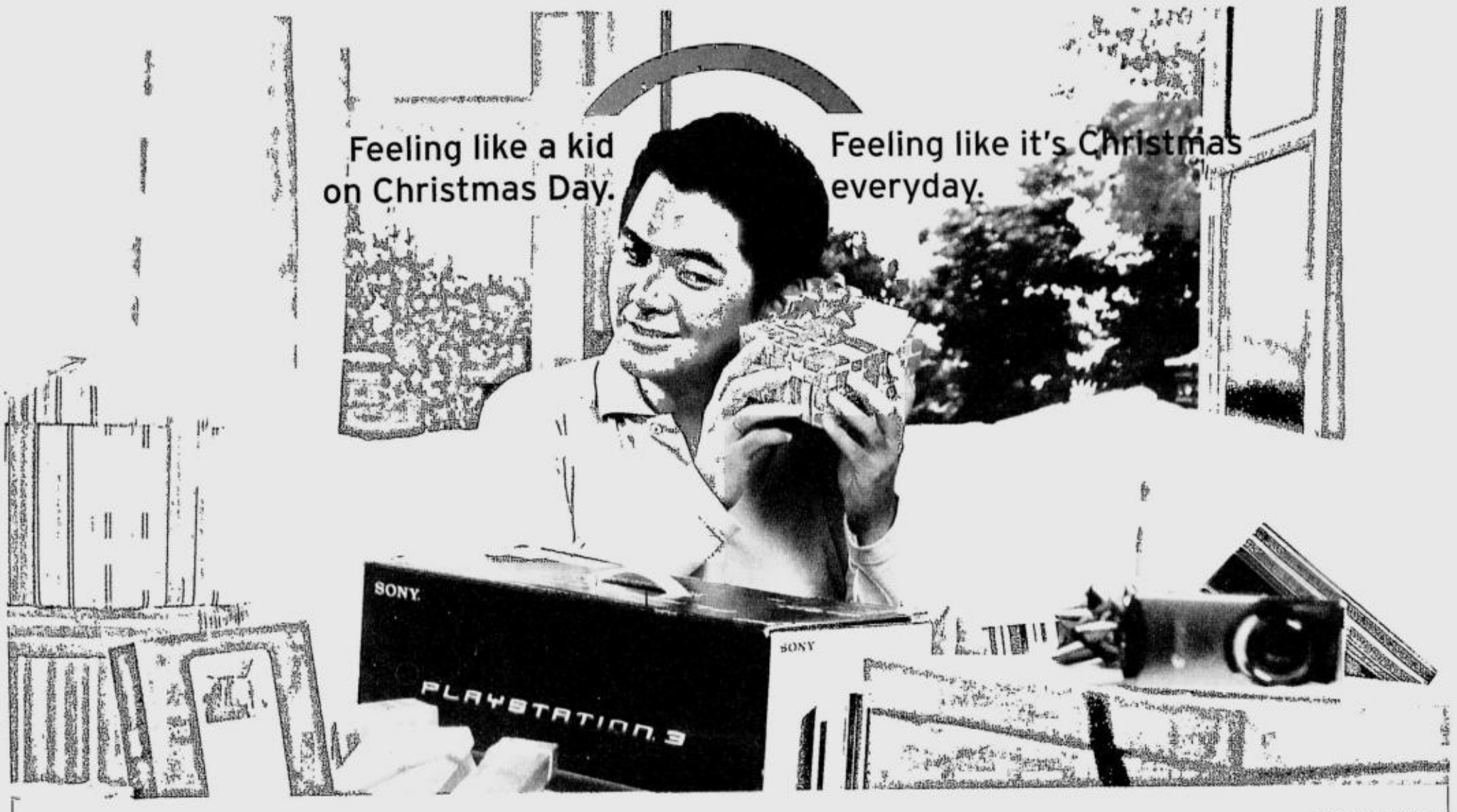
Trillanes, a former navy lieutenant, said at present the combat duty pay of military personnel is only P240 a month.

"This amount hardly serves as an incentive for soldiers, who are subjected to risks and perils when they put their lives on the line to protect our people, our institutions and our democratic way of life," Trillanes said.

He said the soldiers' combat duty pay was last increased in 1985, during the Marcos regime.

The other bill, SB 752, seeks to increase the subsistence allowance of military personnel from the present P60 per day to P150 per day, or by P90.

"Again, this is a very small amount by any standard," Trillanes said, "even if President Arroyo announced two days ago an increase of P30 in the daily subsistence allowance of soldiers."



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Registration of new voters set July 15-22

By Jerome Aning

ELIGIBLE FILIPINO CITIZENS WHO WANT to vote in the Oct. 29 barangay elections may register from July 15 to 22, according to the Commission on Elections.

Comelec Resolution No. 8218, which was issued Friday, lays down the mechanics for the registration of first-time voters, as well as those who want to reactivate their registration or transfer to another voting precinct.

Those qualified to register must be at least 18 years old or who will turn 18 by Oct. 29. They should have resided for at least one year in the Philippines and at least six months in the area where they would be voting.

Not qualified to register are those convicted of an offense punishable by at least one year imprisonment. Those judged guilty of crimes pertaining to disloyalty to the state such as rebellion and sedition, as well as firearms possession and other crimes against national security are also disqualified.

These persons will only be allowed to register five years after serving their sentence, the Comelec resolution said.

Persons declared insane or incompetent are also disqualified from registering.

The registration will be from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the office of the district, municipal or city election officer.

The applicant will be required to present valid identification documents such as a current employee's ID, postal ID, student ID or library card, senior citizen's ID, driver's license, NBI or police clearance, passport, SSS or GSIS ID, PRC license or IBP ID.

Those who cannot present an ID may be identified, under oath, by any registered voter of the precinct or by any of the applicant's relatives within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity.

The applicant's name will be checked against the list of transferred or deactivated voters, after which he will be given an application form.

The applicant will go to the election office's data-capturing machine (DCM) for his demographics and biometrics data. If he fails to submit to the DCM procedure due to his own fault, his application shall be disapproved.

If the DCM breaks down and is not repaired by July 28, the application shall be approved.

Correction

IN THE JULY 8 ISSUE, the headline of a front-page story—"Sick boy started it all for Rosa Rosal 57 years ago"—mistakenly implied that Rosal met the sick boy 57 years ago. She met the boy in 1948—that's 59 years ago. Rosal formally joined the Red Cross 57 years ago in 1950.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, July 9, 2007
14th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gen 28:10-22
Gospel: Matthew 9:18-26

While Jesus was speaking to them, an official of the synagogue came up to him, bowed before him and said, "My daughter has just died, but come and place your hands on her, and she will live." Jesus stood up and followed him with his disciples.

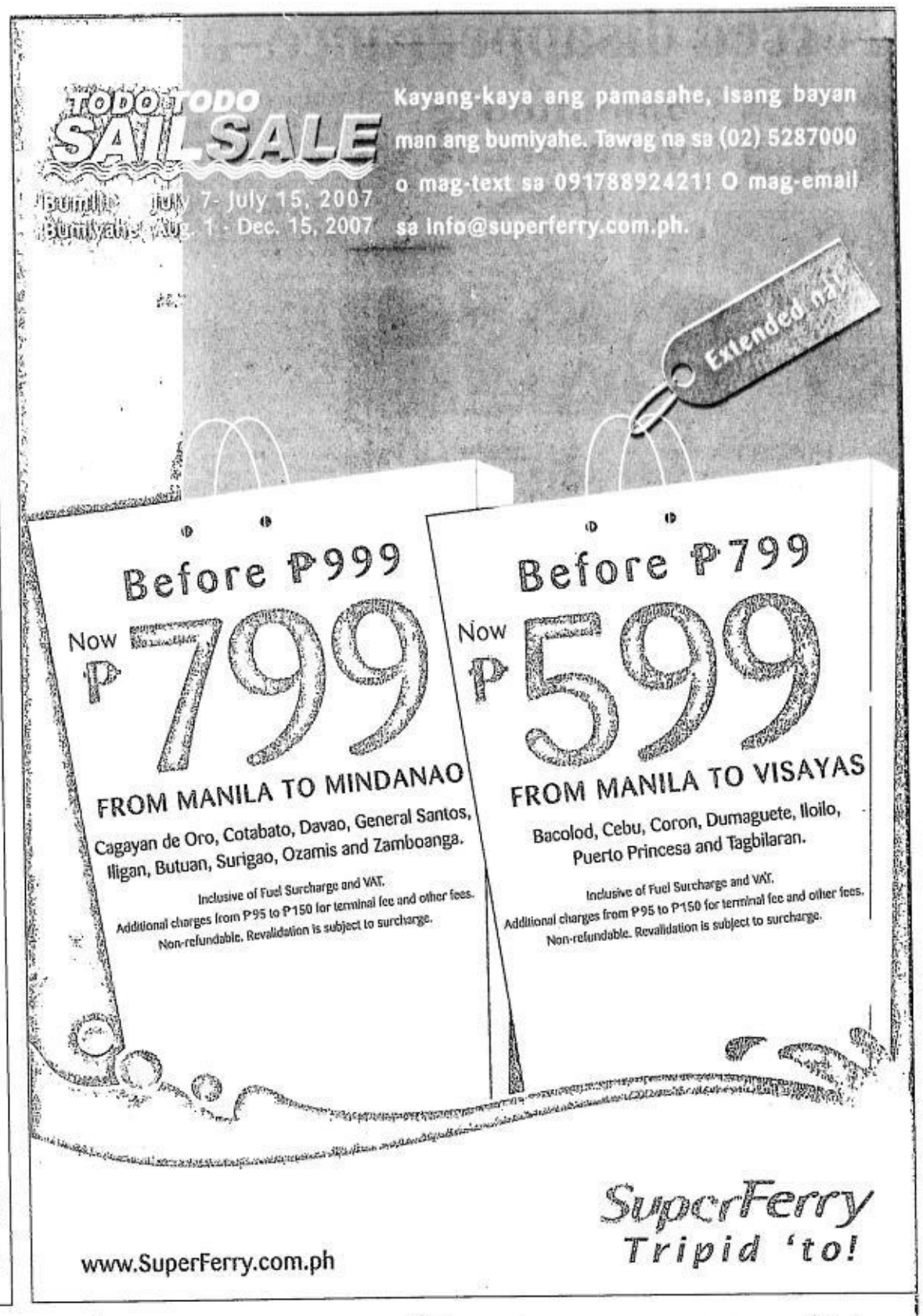
Then a woman who had suffered from a severe bleeding for 12 years came up from behind and touched the edge of his cloak. For she thought, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." Jesus turned, saw her and said, "Courage, my daughter, your faith has saved you." And from that moment the woman was cured.

When Jesus arrived at the official's house and saw the flute players and the excited crowd, he said, "Get out of here! The girl is not dead. She is only sleeping!" And they laughed at him. But once the crowd had been turned out, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up. The news of this spread through the whole area.

Commentary

Jacob flees from his brother as a thief and stops to rest at a shrine. He takes a stone from the shrine to use as a pillow and he dreams of a stairway to heaven with the Lord speaking to Jacob just as he did to Abraham and Isaac. He is promised the land anew. He sets up a memorial and promises God—though it is a promise laced with 'ifs'—that the Lord will be his God when he comes back safe to his father's house. Jacob has a lot to learn—as do all of us.

Jesus is asked to heal a synagogue elder's daughter and he goes to her. But a woman who is desperate after 12 years of pain, exclusion, and humiliation moves in on him and reaches for the tassel of his cloak (this was Jesus' tallit which he would pull over his head to pray in). Jesus senses her. His power touches her. She is healed and affirmed in public, and goes to life rejoicing. Jesus continues and drives out the 'official' mourners and gives the girl back her life. God is always giving us life, hope, blessing, forgiveness, another chance, even at times healing us of what we have done and the effects of our evil. Do we go rejoicing?



Forced disappearance–most cruel human rights violation

LEGAZPI CITY—A FORCED DISAPPEARANCE is the most cruel human rights violation.

This was the consensus out of a one-day forum on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances held here on Friday sponsored by the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and the Australian Government.

The UN declaration defines an "enforced disappearance" as the deprivation of liberty for political reasons committed by or with the authorization, support or acquiescence of the state.

"It is the most cruel form of human rights violation because the possibility of torture and death to the victim is real, while closure for the victim's family is almost impossible," said lawyer Ricardo Sunga III, Law Reforms Specialist III of the University of the Philippines Law Center, in a talk he gave during the forum.

The forum called for the adoption of the United Nations treaty on "enforced" disappearances which defines, prohibits and penalizes forced disappearances as a crime.

The CHR urged the incoming Congress to enact an anti-enforced or involuntary disappearance measure as a domestic adaptation of the UN declaration.

The position paper issued by the CHR and signed by its chair, Purificacion V. Quisimbing, said "The urgency of the passage of the bill is grounded upon the numerous cases of disappearances primarily perpetrated or participated in by agents of the state."

Karapatan-Bikol spokesperson John Concepcion reported 197 forced disappearances and 863 human rights killings nationwide from 2001 to July 3, 2007.

"Since 2001, we have confirmed six enforced disappearances in Bicol alone," he said.

Sunga said the Senate in the last Congress did not approve an anti-enforced Disappearance bill because it was argued that other laws—particularly against kidnapping, illegal detention and murder—wee enough to punish perpetrators.

"However, these existing laws fail to capture the gravity of the issue," Sunga said.

"When it is systematic, enforced disappearances could even be considered a crime against humanity," he said. *Jaymee T. Gamil, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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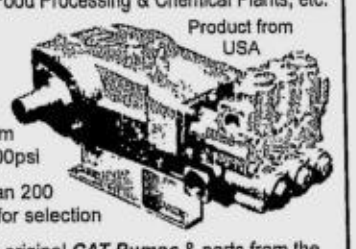

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The Landbank of the Philippines (LBP) is offering the 2,500-sq.m. parcel of land with 8-storey building located at 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City (the "Property") through public bidding, and is soliciting bids for the Property. Said bids should be submitted to Special Assets Department (SPAD) at the 30th Floor LBP Plaza, 1598 M.H. del Pilar, Malate, Manila. The bids should be received by SPAD on or before 12 noon of 16 August 2007.

Bids should conform with the minimum terms and conditions prescribed in the Bidding Rules and Conditions (BRC) to facilitate an objective and transparent evaluation by LBP. The BRC provides the guidelines in the submission, eligibility, and acceptance of the bid which will be deemed most advantageous and beneficial to LBP ("the Best Bid").

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A complete set of the BRC with annexes shall be available starting July 09, 2007 at the Special Assets Department (SPAD) at the 30th Floor LBP Plaza, 1598 M.H. del Pilar, Malate, Manila upon payment of a non-refundable registration fee of **PESOS: One Thousand Only (P1,000.00).**

Bids that have duly complied with the requirements set forth in the BRC will be evaluated and recommended for acceptance by LBP.

LBP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to LBP or call off the acceptance of bids, and call for a new mode of disposal under amended rules. The decision of LBP is final and binding.

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(PDI—July 9, 2007)

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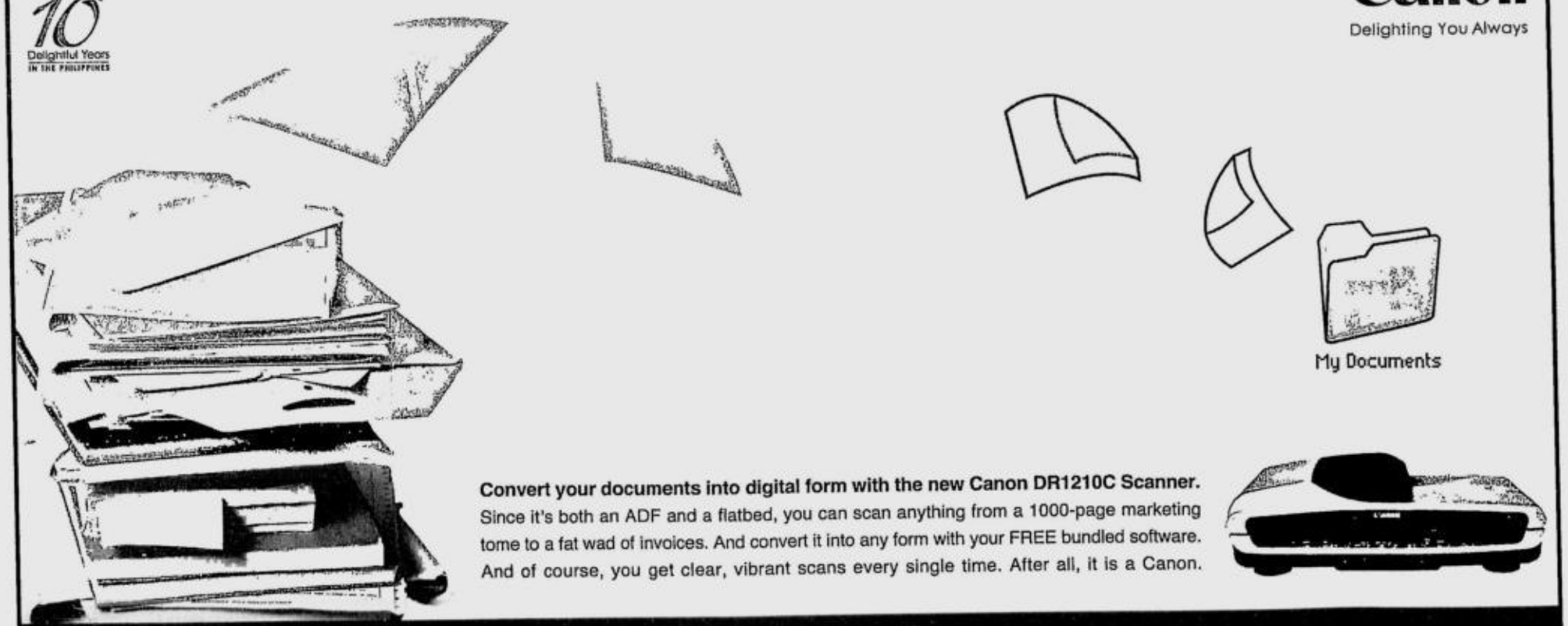

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Opposition candidates for Speaker down to 3

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE OPPOSITION IN THE HOUSE OF Representatives has trimmed to three its nominees for minority leader in the coming 14th Congress, after Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez yesterday said he was bowing out of contention.

The remaining contenders are Representatives Roilo Golez of Parañaque City, Ronaldo Zamora of San Juan City, and Joel Villanueva of the Cibac party-list group.

The minority bloc will caucus at Club Filipino in Greenhills on July 17 to pick a candidate for Speaker. The candidate will be announced at a convention at the same venue two days later.

By tradition, the candidate for Speaker with the second highest number of votes becomes the minority leader.

The opposition in the House is consolidating its forces in time for the speakership vote on July 23, the opening of the 14th Congress, to prevent the possibility of an administration lawmaker becoming minority leader.

This could happen if the majority coalition—composed of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) party and the ruling Lakas-CMD party—fields more than two candidates for Speaker. If Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia (Kampi) challenges Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia, who is seeking his fifth term as Speaker, the opposition bloc may have a problem.

Invited to the opposition's consolidation meeting and convention are former President Corazon Aquino, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, former Senate Presidents Jovito Salonga and Franklin Drilon, and some 300 incumbent lawmakers.

Former President Joseph Estrada will deliver a video message during the convention, according to Rodriguez.

Rodriguez said he was withdrawing from the race to give way to fellow minority lawmakers serving their third and last terms.

"I won't put in my name anymore during the selection," he told the INQUIRER. "I'm a neophyte and the choice for the minority's candidate should naturally come from among the veterans."

Rodriguez said the minority bloc would also discuss its legislative agenda, which would likely include calling for a review of the Human Security Act of 2007, as well as an investigation into the alleged extortion activities by members of the Commission on Appointments.

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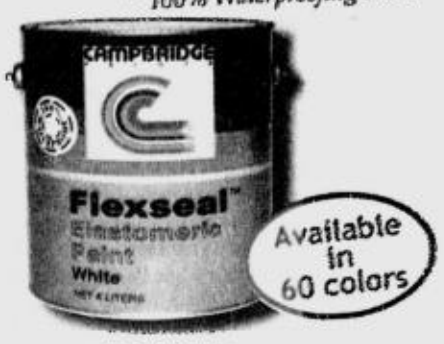

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"Now, what I want is Facts. Teach these boys and girls nothing but Facts. Facts alone are wanted in life. Plant nothing else, and root out everything else… This is the principle on which I bring up my own children, and this is the principle on which I bring up these children. Stick to the Facts, Sir!" --- **Charles Dickens** in Hard Times

"People still retain the errors of their childhood long after they have accepted the truths needed to refute them." ---- **Condorcet** in Progress of the Human Mind

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WHAT PHILIPPINE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS ARE TEACHING FILIPINO PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

TITI : ARI NG LALAKI

LEARNINGS FOR MAKE BENEFIT GLORIOUS NATION OF PHILIPPINES

ANTONIO CALIPJO GO

Academic Supervisor, Marian School of Quezon City

On page 114 of the public school textbook titled HIYAS SA PAGBASA for Grade 5 appears this instruction: "Pag-aralan ang mga nakatalang mga salita." ("Study the given words.") Among the words asked to be examined minutely (pag-aralan) by the students are the words TITI, defined as ARI NG LALAKI (male sex organ), and TITATITA, defined as BUGAW (pimp). Were the writers of this book even thinking when they decided to include the abominable words TITI and TITATITA in a schoolbook for schoolchildren? (Borat would've asked: Is they crazy?) After Pepe's pee pole, what will these good people think of next --- Pilar's pekpek (ari ng babae)?

I wonder why HIYAS SA PAGBASA 5 was approved for publication at all, first, by the publisher, and second, by the INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS COUNCIL SECRETARIAT (IMCS) of the DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED), when the mere presence of two objectionable words --- TITI and TITATITA --- would've been reason enough to reject it. Even more compelling is the presence of more than 300 errors in this 231-page textbook which is supposed to be an instructional material --- a teaching tool ! For all that, HIYAS SA PAGBASA 5, approved under the Second Social Expenditure Management Project (Loan Number 7118-PH) and the Third Elementary Education Project (Loan Number 4108-PH) of the Philippine Government and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), is the one, the only, textbook used in the subject Filipino by all Grade 5 pupils of all the public elementary schools since 1999. This book shows no sign of having been written and evaluated wisely and well. Yet, it has been in use since 1999, with not one individual coming out to question its existence. (The DEPED has just re-ordered 69,409 copies of HIYAS SA PAGBASA 5.)

If I am to pay dearly for saying things I know it is my duty to God and country to say, so be it. I've made peace with my conscience and my God. I'm only a very small voice and this --- such as it is --- is the best that I can do for my country which, it seems to me, has gone irretrievably, irredeemably, to the dogs. This is to say that I can do no more, even as I have already risked all that I own, and all that I am. I may be limitless in my desires but I am restricted in all the other things needed to win the fight against substandard textbooks. I have already shown what causes the disease that's slowly but surely killing Philippine education; others will have to find a way to cure it. Listed below are just some of the errors (so many, it beggars the imagination) of some of the textbooks presently being used in public schools. I regret not having the wherewithal to buy more advertising space or I'd have shown the true and full extent of the Reign of Error in Philippine textbooks, both public and private.

I have identified only two books --- one coming from the old batch of textbooks used in public schools, and one from the new set of approved textbooks in Social Studies to be used starting in June 2007. I did not name the others though I have shown their errors here for three reasons : to convince the public that the errors exist, that they are indeed errors, and that the books which carry these errors really do exist. I do not wish to invite the ire of more publishers by identifying them and the books they have published. You see, the four lawsuits filed against me by two authors of SD PUBLICATIONS and the publisher PHOENIX PUBLISHING HOUSE have greatly, negatively, affected me mentally, emotionally and physically. And all because I told the truth : that their books contained errors! At this point, I believe that bickering and faultfinding will not serve any purpose but to prolong the existence of these errors. I do not wish to pick a fight with anybody. I only know that if I kept this to myself, the errors that have been in these books all these years will continue to harm the hearts and minds of more generations of Filipino schoolchildren. **The errors must be corrected. Now.**

I am asking the help of all concerned citizens to help me form a group of sincere and dedicated individuals who will see to it that the errors are striken off these books. I invite volunteers from the academe, the clergy, civil societies, business and industry. The group, once constituted, must be given blanket authority to conduct a free and open review of all public school textbooks, without fear of harm or injury to their persons or their properties. The group must be assured of complete immunity from lawsuit. The DEPED must promise -- publicly --- to implement the corrections (perhaps, in the first year, in the form of correction pamphlets or notes). The DEPED must likewise promise --- publicly --- to adopt a system which will make the process of textbook evaluation and selection entirely transparent, democratic and accountable. When these conditions shall have been met, then and only then will I sit down with the group, identify the books, point out the errors and provide the corrections. **I will not collect a single cent.**

1. HIYAS SA PAGBASA 5 (written by Lydia P. Lalunio, Ph.D., Francisca G. Ril and Patrocinio V. Villafuerte)

• TITI: ARI NG LALAKI • TITATITA: BUGAW • Isang pangkat ng binata ang naghaharana. May dala silang gitara, biyolin, torotot at tambol. Tumugtog sila ng masiglang awit na "Lawiswis Kawayan". Pagkatapos ay sinundan ng mabilis na tugtog. • Makinilya ang unang gamit na iniregalo sa akin ni Daddy noong magtapos ako sa Kinder. • Taong 2998 A. D. Ang mga bagong modelo ng sasakyan ay naglalakbay sa pamamagitan ng uling ng ipil-ipil. • Daan-daang dyip ang nagagawa araw-araw ng Sarao. • Si Pres. Garcia ay kumita ng unang liwanag sa Talibon, Bohol. • Walang ulap kung umaga. Nasinghot na ng lumalaking populasyon. • Ang sipon ay umaapekto sa buong katawan. • Ang kahirapan ay hindi sagabal patungong kaitaasan. • Chick boaster at broiler ang kinakain ng mga sisiw na pugo. • Ang kanin ay galing sa halaman.

2. MASIPAG NA PILIPINO for Grade 3 (written by Grace Estela C. Mateo, Ph.D., Lydia N. Agno, Ed.D., Celinia E. Balonso, Ph.D., Rosita D. Tadena, Ph.D., and Estelita B. Capiña)

• Ang TRENCH ay isang makipot, mahaba at malalim na bahagi ng karagatan sa pagitan ng mga pulo. Dinaraanan ito ng mga barko at iba pang sasakyang pandagat. • Magsaliksik sa aklatan o kapanayamin ang isang doktor tungkol sa iba't ibang paraan ng pagpaplano ng pamilya. Ilarawan o ipaliwanag ang mga paraang ito. • Lumikha ng dalawang taludtod na tula sa loob ng 10 - 15 minuto tungkol sa paksang Malaking Populasyon, Malaking Pamilya o Maliit na Pamilya. • Magdala ng manika o karton na ginupit na anyong tao. Bihisan ito ng ginupit na papel, pira-pirasong tela, dahon at balat para mag-anyong Negrito ito. Ipakita sa eksibit. • Maraming halaman ang matatagpuan sa lawa. • Bahagyang napaliliigiran ang dagat ng kalupaan. • Ang isthmus ay isang piraso ng lupa na napaliligiran ng tubig. • Ipinagbibili ng mga mangingisda ang kanilang huli sa mga pagawaan ng de-lata. • Saang lalawigan ang may palaisdaan na may nakukuha rin na mga isda ? • Halimbawa ng multi-cropping ay ang niyugan. Ang lupang malapit dito ay tinatamnan ng kape at kakaw. • Bumabalik ang mga mangingisda sa aplaya sa pagbubukang-liwayway sa umaga. • Sa mga bansa na tuwid ang sikat ng araw ay mayroon itong mainit na klima.

3. ENGLISH BOOK - I

• Jose Garcia Villa wrote the story "Woman With Two Navels." • Birds hate being stared at by people. Quails stay together in groups called convey. They sleep in circle. If one quail notices something unusual, the whole convey flies away. The lizard raised its throat to achieve an impressive display. Koala swims impressively. • A high lighthouse sent the captain a clue. • Stop playing in your computer now. • Be in the peak of health. • He could think fast of a poem to write. • Even "Help!" was never shouted by anyone. • The Philippines has enough rain almost equally distributed throughout the year. The typhoon is moving in a northeasternly direction. • Around the pool is an orientally-designed porch. • Your parents don't want me around hanging with you. • I have seen some orchids in our neighbor's botanical gardens. • Playing is one of her hobbies. • Politics, which takes much time, concerns with the affairs of government. •Fishing means catching all kinds of living animals in the water like oysters and clams. Fish and other animals are the greatest food resources. Most people in fishing countries of the world are fishers. Would you compare fishing with politics, mathematics or aeronautics? • Some plants are self-planters. They plant their own seeds. • Life is the fast rising of the sun that shines on the earth which goes around it fast. Life is the late realization that life is gone and we discover it late.

4. ENGLISH BOOK - II

• I'm capable of being the best me I can. (3 times) • How do machines get energy from the sun? • Pray whenever you have rage with anyone. • The city's voice is soft like solitudes. • There were moments of happiness but they were fragile and fleeting like the sudden grief and fleeting. • I dipped my tired feet into a basin of water to soothe the ache and fret. • classical: a phrase or slogan repeated rhythmically • colonization: art of establishing colonies • communicator: one who communicates • crinkly: full of crinkles • crystal: clear ice or quarts that is transparent • CT scan: act of examining minutely • equal: equal in status • holography: technique of making holograms • knaver: dishonest person • mutter: speak distinctly • nausea: sickness at the stomach • ornamental: a person that adds credit or glory of a society • oystershell: crushed or ground oyster shell • peddle: carry from place to place • phraser: one that coins telling phrases • retrieve: call to mind again • shoo: drive away by saying "shoo" • survival: act of living longer than another person • violincello: violincellist

5. ENGLISH BOOK - III

• Disney characters are persons in Disney stories for children. Who of the Disney characters do you know? • No two animals talk in the same way. • Do animals move only when the wind blows? What animals don't move when there is no wind but move when the wind blows? • Take me to the water breaks. • Never try to make anyone do anything. • Rizal made himself famous as a writer. • Stars seem to twinkle because they are very far away. There are dwarf stars. They are like people. • Grandpa bought 4 ducks. Soon the ducks laid some eggs. Now he had more than 80 ducks. • The events in a fable are impossible to happen in real life. • We celebrate in February People Power. In April, we recall the Death March, Bataan's fall. May is a month of cold showers. July is a month to remember our American friends forever. We remember a birthday in August, Quezon's so well-loved and famous.

6. ENGLISH BOOK - IV

• MANY FILIPINO MEN AND WOMEN HAVE BRAINS. • You should always address the envelop and leave it open. • The children felt the bridge under them falling. • He found his friend clowning himself around. • Sometimes the elephant becomes angry with Kim for fooling the animal around. • Topic: Sharing To Others • The dog is a tamer animal than the cat. • God wants me for a sunbeam to shine for Him each day. • Francis has five fine fingernails.

7. ENGLISH BOOK - V

• Kiosk: a somewhat similar structure open at one or more sides used as a bandstand. • She bared her bosom and squeezed a drop of milk into each barren ear of the weeds. She emptied one breast and then the other. When she pressed her breast again, blood and not milk came out. • He seemed to be waiting for someone, not a blood relation, much less a bad blood. • In bullfighting, the bulls are not the ones which fight with each other. It is very dangerous to face a bull that has been played with. • "Here's for you!" the guard said while hitting Basilio. Sisa's husband was different from most husbands who are responsible to their families. • The bamboo whirled till it spun like a top then stood tall and graceful as a queen but the hardwood tree hit the wind with its bark. • Our hopes and dreams are like fleeting birds at night. People are not made to float like a bird. • Farmers rip some of the hard bark of their trees to allow more water to enter. • Mother Teresa was always there to color the world of cancer patients. • Just like human beings, books suffer and die early when treated cruelly and denied the basic necessities in life.

8. ENGLISH BOOK - VI

• Of course, goldfish really drink milk. Don't you see the milky water? Isn't milk good for my fish? • Fort Santiago was the fortress used by Rajah Soliman as his protection against the Spaniards. • I don't lay like a hen on her eggs in the nest when there are things I can do. • Early kites were very large leaves. The string was a piece of vine. • I need a vase with a flat base. A flat plate is on the flower plant. • Galileo invented a magnifying telescope to study the moon. • Seeing a rainbow in the sky is like a dream that disappears that's why a child wants it painted permanently in the sky. • Science is what we find out by studying the world around us. • Our country is not only the most beautiful country in the East but also has the richest natural resources. • Look at the sky at night. You see the moon and the stars. Then you see lightning flashes and you hear thunder before the downpour of rain. Why is the sky? And why is the sky?

9. ENGLISH BOOK - VII

• Use EBONY soap for whiter skin. Drink TURTLE'S CHOICE power drink. Turtles are born with a shell and a bone. • We grow our hogs in our own farms so you're sure to get meat that is grown. • As the campers trek through the trail at the rainboat they'll stop now and then. They had huffs and puffs. • She took care of tomatoes. I was still young for a garden plot. • Some birds sing for the joy of singing and others for purpose. • The farmer is hopeful that someday he will reap with joy. He put up a scarecrow to send the birds away. The mountain climber was flown off his feet. • The high flagpole could be seen easily. During windy days, the flag flies so high it doesn't drop. The national anthem sounds so high that we cannot reach the pitch. • I'm in for a bad time when I start poem-writing. I succeeded opening the package and my eyes rolled big over a ball. • The dog treated the guest badly. • The daily policeman reports to his post in the morning. He stands straight watching the vehicles go by. Those who stop late for the red light are apprehended.

10. ENGLISH BOOK - VIII

• The chicken was dressed. They stripped off her feathers, served her quite bare and everyone poked at her breast. • Open door on back of camera, place film and close camera door. • Choke: stop breath by blocking the windpipe. The baby was choke from eating biscuits. • Mt. Makiling is located along the borders of Laguna and Tayabas. Beetles eat trees. The bat licks itself like a cat; after washing up, it flies away. Not all mountains are made by wrinkles in the ground. City of OXACA in Mexico (7 times). • God's footsteps bulged the mountains up. God like morning bending over her baby kneeled down in the dust. • Because you made a fool of me, you'll get the greatest wrath. I'm afraid of the wrath of the stem. • The mayor can pave the construction of the building. • His wits, hope and reason to live sent himself to school. He became the primetaker of his family's farmland. • The lakes widdled down in the hollows of the ground. The hen walked coquetly. When he smells something foul, it makes him squirmish. The potato pursued a disapproving lip. • On Basilio's skull, fire nicked. The tiny fire had a blow, huge and quick. He touched the fire on his skull. Past all that is beyond, he runs. Guavas hang ripe from the trees; they leap from branch to branch, like the fleet of butterflies. Sisa runs out of the town in the woods, runs into the gate. She cries with joy and in that joy dies.

11. FILIPINO BOOK - I

• Dumating ang mga Amerikano sa bansa dahil sa digmaang Cubano at Kastila. Hindi makakalimutan ng mga Pilipino ang katagang "I shall return" ni MacArthur. Isinakatuparan niya ito hanggang sa tuluyan na nilatayong masakop. • Napatunayan sa pag-aaral na ang mga babae ay limang ulit na higit na madalas ang pagiyak kaysa mga lalaki. Ang pag-iyak na ito ay nagaganap sa pagitan ng ikapito at ikasampu ng gabi. Maituturing na ito ang mga oras na nagaganap ang di-pagkakaunawaan sa pamilya at nakakaramdam ng kalungkutan ang karamihan. • Ang La Union ay nasa sentro ng Gitnang Luzon at mga lalawigan sa hilaga. Ito ay bulubundukin (mountainous) at simula hilaga hanggang timog ang mga kapatagan (plains). • Ang Tawi-Tawi ay nasa dakong hilagang-kanluran (northwest) ng Pilipinas. • Ang Laguna ay may malapad na palayan. • Mga Larong Nagtuturo ng Disiplina: Taguan, Pagpapalipad ng Saranggola. • Mga Larong Gaya-Gaya: Bahay-bahayan, Basketbol, Sopbol. • Komisyuner. Sori. Inhinyeriya. Pokus sa Tagatanggap (Benepaktib). Pokus sa Lugar (Lokatib). Pokus sa Sanhi (Kawsatib). Gol Pokus. Aktor Pokus. Kamping. Tenis. Iskrabol. Balibol. Iskursyunista. Adres. Bulitin bord. Kimika. Aldyibra.

People think I'm proud for not cooperating with the DEPED in correcting the errors which I myself exposed, but if you were in my place, would you? Despite the fact that academicians tasked by the DEPED to review "Ang Bagong Pilipino" found 9 conceptual errors, 20 factual errors and 47 language errors, they still gave it a rating of 90% to 94% for "CORRECTNESS" ! Is this the New Math? Nine conceptual errors in a single textbook is very grave indeed ! In reality, "Ang Bagong Pilipino" contains no less than 100 errors. The DEPED said that the percentage of "CORRECTNESS" of the seven books in the new Social Studies series approved for use in public schools this year ---- according to my findings all defective ----- range from 90 to 99.48. WAWWEEWAH !!! This is magic and miracle rolled into one !!!

And now this. In an article ("Palace cancels bid results for Php 1.3 Billion in textbooks") published in the June 8 issue of the Inquirer, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus had this to say about an incident which happened in 2004, when the textbook "Asya : Noon, Ngayon at sa Hinaharap" was removed and withdrawn from all public schools as a result of my expose : "After an evaluation, we found not so many factual errors which did not warrant a recall." In trying to discredit me, Sec. Lapus ended up discrediting his predecessor, former Sec. Florencio Abad, who was the one who ordered the recall, not I. His decision was upheld by the entire bureaucracy of the Department of Education, with not one member of its vast army dissenting. If there were "not so many errors found," why did it necessitate the issuance of "errata that had to be inserted in each of the affected textbooks" ?

Galileo, using a telescope he made himself, observed that the four moons of Jupiter revolve around that planet---- exactly, he inferred, the way Copernicus said that the earth revolves around the sun. His discoveries caused an uproar because his observations went against conventional beliefs about the workings of the universe. The Church condemned him because his ideas challenged its teaching that the earth was the center of the universe. Galileo was tried by the Inquisition in 1633. Threatened with death unless he recanted and abandoned his "heresies," Galileo agreed to publicly state that the earth stands motionless at the center of the universe. But as he was leaving the court, he is said to have muttered, "And yet it moves !"

The May 22 issue of the Inquirer carried a photo showing Sec. Lapus painting chairs and tables at one public school in Mandaluyong. He should instead channel his energy to cleaning the books our children are using, textbooks that are dirty beyond belief for the tons of grime and garbage they contain. No amount of whitewashing will make these errors go away. The DEPED, the IMCS, writers and publishers can deny the existence of these errors all they want, file harassment suits one after the other against me, assassinate my character to their hearts' content, even threathen me with death. They have forgotten that even the lowly snake is a thinking, feeling being. Sensitive to the merest quiver of the ground, they abandon their holes at the first sign of an earthquake. We humans were assigned a higher place in the hierarchy of God's creations, astounding even God Himself with our wit, wisdom and intelligence. We perceive, we discern the movement of the planets, the perturbation of stars in galaxies far, far away. And so, there will come a day of reckoning, because the people know. They know it moves. **Yet it moves !**

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09 July 2007

ADVT

PCGG seeks reversal of ruling on Marcos deposit

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE PHILIPPINE COMMISSION on Good Government has asked the Sandiganbayan to overturn its ruling junking the PCGG's bid to recover P220 million in suspected Marcos assets in Security Bank and Trust Co.

In a 13-page motion, the PCGG asked the antigraft court to oblige SBTC to remit the P220 million balance of the P981.4-million total deposit of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his cronies that the bank had "acknowledged" it had.

But its ruling, the Sandiganbayan upheld SBTC's claim that "spurious' documents merely made it appear that the bank had the deposits. The bank insisted it never actually received the amount, citing the findings of a PCGG-led audit team that found the P220 million to be fictitious since the transactions concerning it were made through "spurious telexes" containing "forged signatures."

But the PCGG said the bank, not the government, should answer for the loss of the money because of its silence and inaction in correcting the discrepancies arising from the "spurious" remittances.

"Any loss arising from the fraudulent acts or mistakes committed by SBTC's personnel relating to the supposedly spurious remittances must be borne by [the bank] and not by the [government]," it said.

The PCGG also implied that the Sandiganbayan's Fifth Division erred in dismissing the case by largely relying on "hearsay evidence" of an accountant who was not with the bank when the supposed "spurious" transactions occurred.

The PCGG said that accountant Rowena Gallardo's testimony was not admissible as evidence as she merely acquired information on the transactions from an investigation of the Marcos deposits, not because she had witnessed or participated in it.

Gallardo was then a financial analyst at Credit Information Bureau Inc. and a member of the PCGG-led audit team that examined the bank's books before she went to work for SBTC.

Gallardo had told the court the bank should not be compelled to remit the money because the "fictitious or spurious telex transfers" indicated that it never received the amount.

According to the PCGG, since Gallardo was not yet an SBTC employee when the bank supposedly received or transmitted the questioned telex transactions, "she had no personal knowledge as to which telex machine was used to transmit or receive the remittances..."

"Nor was she in a position to know the individuals who were supposed to authenticate such incoming telex advice and whether such remittances were really received by the bank or not," the PCGG argued in its motion dated June 22.

The PCGG maintained the court should have not admitted the bank's documentary evidence which consisted of photocopies of the certified true copies of the purported bogus telexes.

In assuming that the remittances were indeed spurious, the bank's inaction to correct such discrepancies "should be taken against it," it said.

"It is quite incredible or unbelievable that SBTC would do nothing to immediately correct such mistake or error, especially if the amount involved is a little short of a quarter of a billion pesos," the PCGG said.

It said it saw no reason to rebut the bank's evidence even if the remittances were proven spurious as the government had no part in it.

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Pope approves wider use ...

From page A1

Benedict stressed that he was not negating Vatican II by removing restrictions on celebrating the old rite, known as the Tridentine Mass. In it, the priest faces away from the congregation and prays, sometimes in a whisper, in Latin, a language unfamiliar to most of the world's 1 billion Roman Catholics.

The Pope's decision nevertheless overruled the objections of liberal-minded Catholics and angered Jews because the Tridentine rite contains a prayer for their conversion.

Benedict issued a document authorizing parish priests to celebrate the Tridentine Mass if a "stable group of faithful" requests it. Currently, the local bishop must approve such requests—an obstacle that supporters of the rite say has greatly limited its availability.

But the Pope said that the change could both heal rifts with traditionalist groups that favor the Latin Mass as well as reconnect the Church with a 1,500-year-old form of worship that faded since the Second Vatican Council, which ended in 1965.

"What earlier generations held as sacred, remains sacred and great for us, too, and it cannot be, all of a sudden, entirely forbidden or even considered harmful," he wrote.

Reaching out

In reviving the rite, Benedict was reaching out to the followers of an excommunicated ultratraditionalist, the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, who split with the Vatican over Vatican II, particularly the introduction of the New Mass celebrated in the vernacular.

The Vatican excommunicated Lefebvre in 1988 after he consecrated four bishops without Rome's consent. The bishops were excommunicated as well.

Benedict has been eager to reconcile with Lefebvre's group, the Society of St. Pius X, which has demanded freer use of the old Mass as a precondition for normalizing relations. The group's other precondition is the removal of the excommunication decrees.

The current head of the society, Bishop Bernard Fellay, welcomed Benedict's document in a statement. He said he hoped "that the favorable climate established by the new dispositions of the Holy See" would eventually allow other doctrinal disputes that emerged from Vatican II to be discussed, including ecumenism, religious liberty and the sharing of power with bishops.

Benedict has made no secret of his affinity for the Tridentine rite and has long said the faithful should have greater access to it.

But more liberal Catholics have suggested that in liberalizing the use of a rite that symbolized the pre-Vatican II Church, Benedict was sending a strong message that Vatican II was not the "break from the past" that some view it as being.

Benedict's document also angered Jews, since the Tridentine rite contains a prayer on Good Friday of Easter Week calling for the conversion of Jews. The Anti-Defamation League called the move a "body blow to Catholic-Jewish relations," the Jewish news agency JTA reported.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center urged Benedict to publicly point out that such phrases "are now entirely contrary to the teaching of the Church."

In addition to Jewish concerns, bishops in France and liberal-minded clergy and faithful elsewhere had expressed concerns that allowing freer use of the Tridentine liturgy would imply a negation of Vatican II and create divisions in parishes since two different liturgies would be celebrated.

In gentle but firm language, the Pope acknowledged in an accompanying letter to bishops the depth of opposition to the change, voiced in recent months by European bishops and Jewish groups.

"This fear is unfounded," he said even as he proposed, in fact, a review after three years to determine "if truly serious difficulties come to light."

Benedict said the New Mass remained the "normal" form of Mass while the Tridentine version was an "extraordinary" one that would probably only be sought, by a few Catholics.

The document "doesn't impose any return to the past, it doesn't mean any weakening of the authority of the council nor the authority and responsibility of bishops," Vatican spokesperson Rev. Federico Lombardi said.

Divisions seen

But Cardinal Jean-Pierre Ricard, the head of the French Episcopal Conference, warned that the move would create divisions.

"There will be resistance from both sides," to the new decision, Ricard told Le Monde. "For some, asking for a Mass in Latin will seem like a standard aimed at testing the priests' loyalty to the Pope," Ricard warned.

The liberal lay Church group, We Are Church, said that the move represented a step back from Vatican II and could set an even more conservative direction for the Church. It warned of a "new split within many parishes, diocese and finally the entire Roman Catholic Church."

"It is to be feared that while it appears to only be about the old Mass, in reality it is an attempt to set the Catholic Church on a new old course," the group said.

Ricard said the move did not mean the entire Church was becoming more fundamentalist.

"Just because you have in a family a cousin who is a bit different, whom you tolerate and accept, doesn't mean that the whole family adopts his positions or his way of life," he said.

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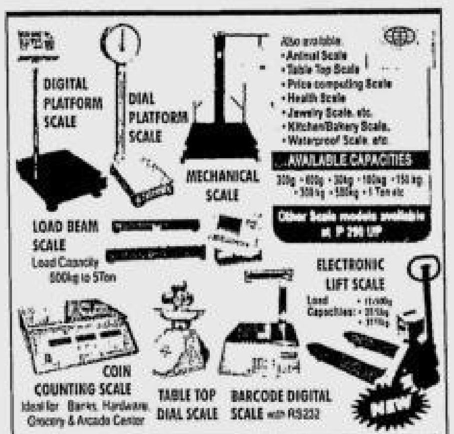

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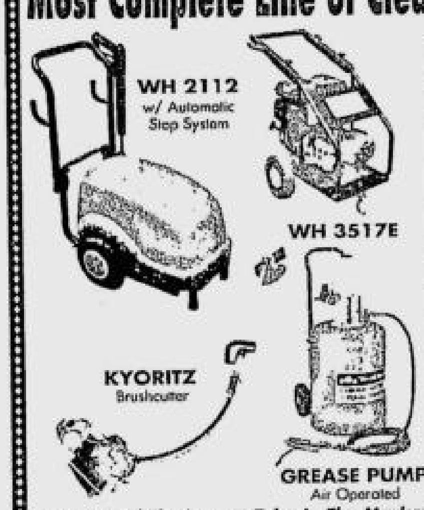

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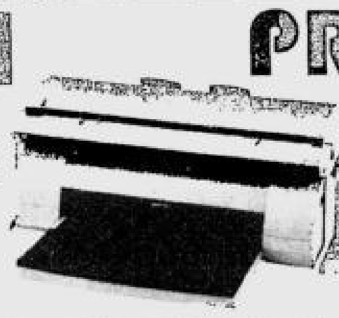

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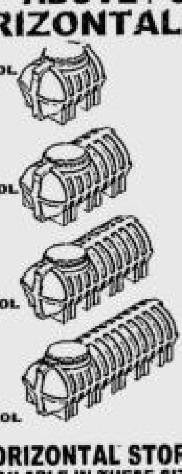

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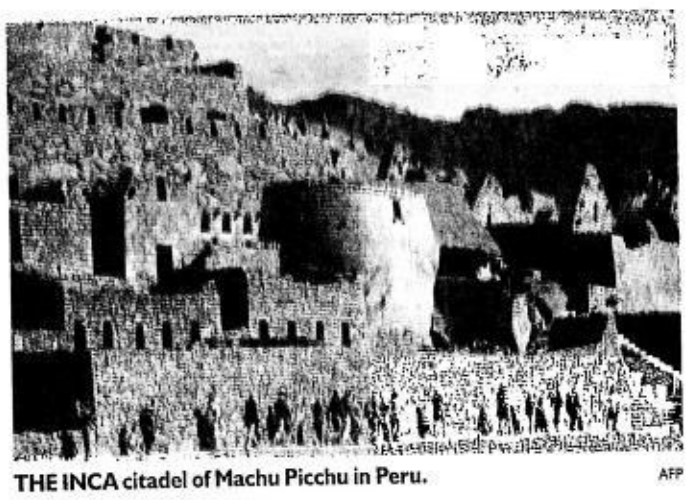
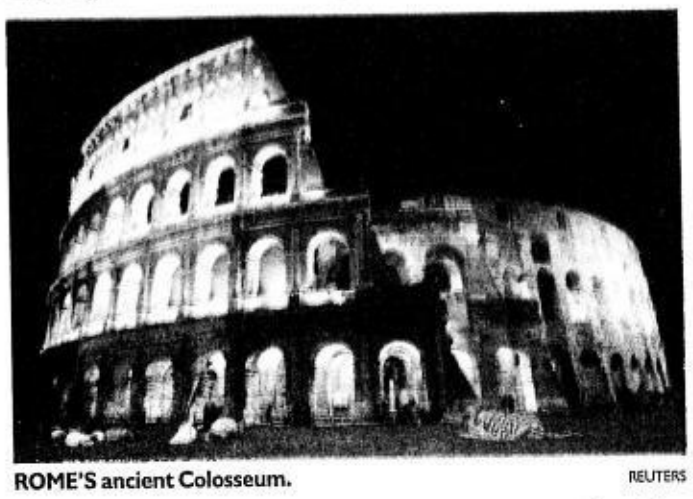
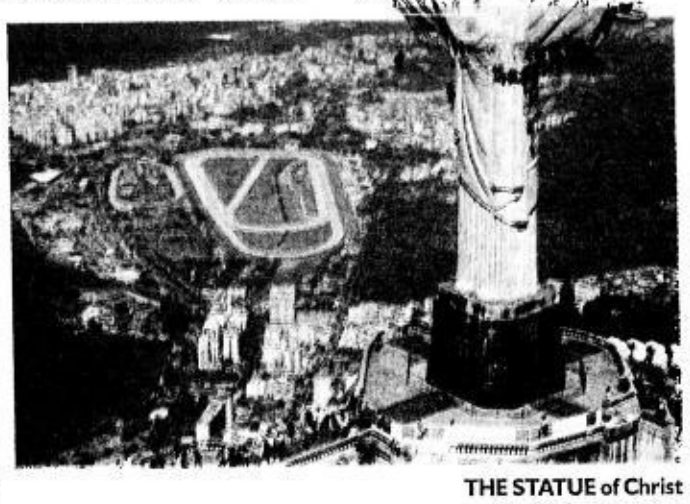


THE INCA citadel of Machu Picchu in Peru. AFP



ROME'S ancient Colosseum. REUTERS



THE STATUE of Christ the Redeemer atop Corcovado mountain in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. REUTERS

100M voters pick 7 'new' world wonders

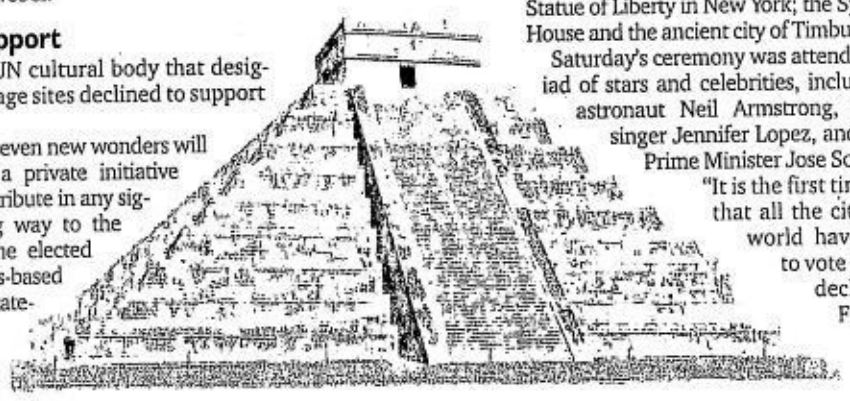
From page A1

ed 1.6 billion viewers.

A private Swiss foundation launched the contest in January, allowing voters to choose from among 21 sites short-listed from 77 landmarks selected by a jury. Nearly 100 million votes were cast by the Internet and text messages by Friday midnight, according to New7Wonders, the nonprofit organization that conducted the poll.

Losing out among the front-runners on the short list were the Acropolis in Athens, Eiffel Tower in Paris, the statues on Easter Island, and Stonehenge in Britain.

The privately sponsored campaign was the brainchild of Swiss filmmaker and museum curator Bernard Weber.



THE KUKULKAN Pyramid at the Mayan ruins of Chichen Itza in Mexico. REUTERS

No Unesco support

However, the UN cultural body that designates world heritage sites declined to support the event.

"The list of the seven new wonders will be the result of a private initiative which cannot contribute in any significant or lasting way to the preservation of the elected sites," the Paris-based Unesco said in a statement last month.

The initiative sought to recreate the popularity of the seven wonders of the world of antiquity. Only one of the seven, the Pyramids of Egypt, still stands today—and it was ruled out of the contest.

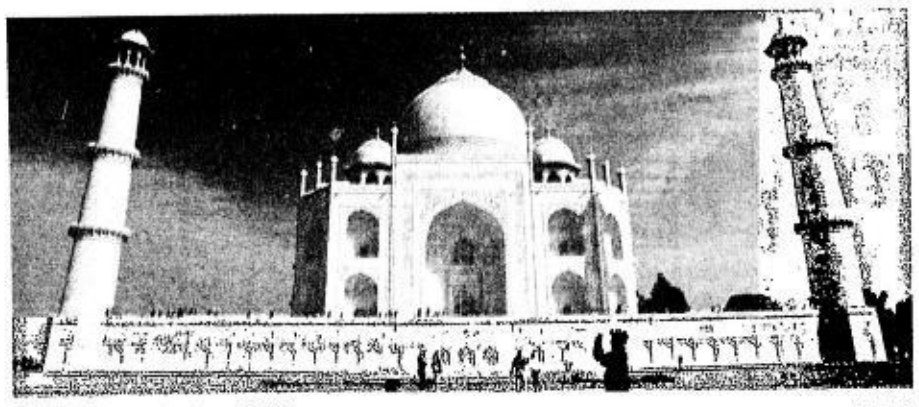
The other old wonders were the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, Statue of Zeus at Olympia, Temple of Artemis at Ephesus in Asia Minor, Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, Colossus of Rhodes, and Pharos of Alexandria.

The short list of 21 sites was drawn up by a panel of world renowned architects and ex-Unesco chief Federico Mayor in January last year.

The list also included the Angkor Wat temples in Cambodia; Alhambra in Granada, Spain; Hagia Sophia in Istanbul; Kiyomizu Temple in Japan; Kremlin and Red Square in Moscow; Neuschwanstein Castle in southern Germany; Statue of Liberty in New York; the Sydney Opera House and the ancient city of Timbuktu in Mali.

Saturday's ceremony was attended by a myriad of stars and celebrities, including former astronaut Neil Armstrong, actress and singer Jennifer Lopez, and Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Socrates.

"It is the first time in history that all the citizens of the world have been able to vote and decide," declared Diogo Freitas do Amaral, chair of the organizing committee.



THE TAJ Mahal in Agra, India. REUTERS

In China, the televised event was not broadcast, leaving thousands of tourists at the Great Wall unaware of the new designation.

"As usual there are a lot of tourists here today, but I don't think they came here because the Great Wall was chosen as one of the seven wonders of the world," Hu Yang, an official at the Badaling Great Wall near Beijing, told Agence France Presse by telephone.

"There was no special activity to welcome this ... all the same it is a great honor for all of China," Hu added. "Most of us here (at Badaling) voted for the Great Wall, but I have no idea how many Chinese voted overall.

Indians handed out sweets and set off fireworks outside the Taj Mahal to celebrate its inclusion in the list and promised discounts to tourists.

Hundreds thronged the 17th century monument built by Mughal ruler Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal.

"It's a victory of love, the message which the Taj stands for," Rakesh Chauhan, president of the Agra Hotel and Restaurant Association, said as he announced a 20-percent cut in room rates in the town's budget hotels for the next year.

Peruvians cheer

In Peru, hundreds gathered at 2,430 meters (7,970 feet) to greet the announcement that the ruins of Machu Picchu where they were standing on had been voted one of the "new" wonders of the world.

Thousands more cheered and hugged each other in Cusco, 70 km to the southeast of the ruins after cafe and restaurant televisions beamed the result.

"The selection of Machu Picchu is an example of what Peruvians can achieve when we unite" as they did in voting in favor of "the new marvel," Trade and Tourism Minister Mercedes Araoz told reporters after the announcement.

THE SITE of the Treasury in Petra, Jordan. AP

Thousands also cheered, waved flags and broke into Mayan dances at the archaeological ruins on Mexico's Yucatan, when Chichen Itza became one of the seven "new" wonders of the world.

"Chichen, Chichen, ra, ra, ra," chanted a group of Mexicans in white flowing robes at the foot of the Kukulkan (The Castle), the central pyramid that dominates the ruins and was built from 967 to 987.

The Mayan ruins attract more than one million tourists a year.

In Rio de Janeiro, which hosted one of the Live Earth concerts *(see story on Page A1)*, hundreds of thousands of singing and dancing revelers broke into huge applause as they were told that the city's landmark Christ the Redeemer statue had been included among the new wonders of the world. *AFP*

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The bidding documents shall be available to interested bidders/suppliers at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 401, 4/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM, starting July 9, 2007 upon payment of non-refundable fee as indicated above. The pre-bidding conference will be on JULY 18, 2007, 10:00 AM at the Office of the Deputy Secretary for Administrative and Financial Services, Rm. 408, 4th Floor, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Pasay City. The submission and opening of bids will be held on JULY 31, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at the same venue.

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This Invitation is also advertised with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) at www.procurementservice.org. and posted at the 3rd and 4th Floor Senate bulletin boards.

For inquiry, please call the BAC Secretariat Office at telefax no. 552-6601 local 1602 (c/o Rose de Castro).

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(Sgd.) ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–July 9, 2007)

RP has 2 world champs

From page A1

pine-born world champions at present. Condes hails from Romblon, while Donaire came from General Santos City.

Although he is the world's most feared super featherweight, national boxing hero Manny Pacquiao holds only the belt of the lesser World Boxing Council (WBC) International, which groups fighters ranked outside the division's top 10.

Condes, nicknamed "The Little Pacquiao" for his tenacity and power, built his victory on two knockdowns of the Indonesian titleholder in the third and 10th rounds.

Judges Salven Lagumbay of the Philippines and Montol Suriyachand of Thailand each scored it 114-112 for Condes, while Indon judge Muhammad Rois had it 117-113 for Rachman.

The 27-year-old Condes improved to 22-3-1 with 20 KOs.

Left to the jaw

Rachman, 35, won the IBF crown in September 2004 and was making his fourth defense. He fell to 61-6-5 with 31 KOs.

A big left from Donaire caught Darchinyan flush on the jaw in the fifth round just as the Australia-based fighter was about to unleash his feared left. That sent the dual champion crashing to the floor back first.

The win was Donaire's 18th in 19 fights, with 11 KOs and one defeat.

Brother's defeat avenged

The brash Darchinyan, who stopped Donaire's brother Glenn in six rounds last year, slipped to 28 wins, 1 loss with 22 KOs.

Donaire's stunning victory failed to impress the 27-year-old Darchinyan. Fight sources said the former champion immediately asked his handlers to arrange a rematch.

"I feel I was not hurt," said Darchinyan. "He may have knocked me down but I was not hurt. I would like to fight him again."

Donaire said it was up to his manager to decide on a rematch.

House for Mama

"I respect Darchinyan for being a good and hard-hitting boxer, but I will leave (the decision) to Gary Shaw and to my manager," said Donaire. "I will never say no to them."

The thought of building a house for his widowed mother Juanita in Looc, Romblon, kept Condes going, particularly during the times the hard-punching Rachman tossed him onto the ropes.

"Hirap ako nung dumidikit siya, hindi ako makasuntok (I had a hard time throwing a punch when he tried to get inside)," said Condes.

"Pero nung nasa lubid ako at panay ang suntok niya, naalaala ko ang nanay ko na gusto ko sanang mapagawan ng bahay (But when I was under attack on the ropes, I thought of my mother for whom I want to build a house)."

Body attack

Condes showed who was the better fighter early, knocking down Rachman with a big left in the third round, and then had the defending champion kissing the canvas again in the 10th with a powerful right.

The Filipino swept the first three rounds, initiating his offensive with good head movements followed by body attacks.

Rachman saw a portent of things to come when Condes landed a huge left to his midsection, causing him to writhe in pain as he moved away from the Filipino fighter.

"Alam ko na di niya makayanan yung suntok ko, pero magaling din talaga si Rachman (I knew he could not take my punches, but Rachman was also really good)," said Condes.

Aiming for the cut

The two fighters exchanged hard punches from the fourth through the ninth rounds, and both had their moments. Condes began to slow down starting in the seventh round, giving Rachman time to regroup.

The Indonesian was cut over the right eye by a punch in the 10th round before he kissed the canvas a second time.

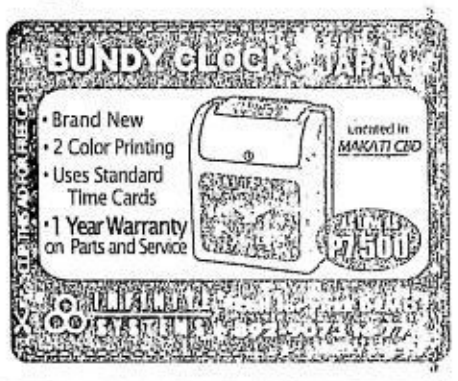
"When he got cut, I aimed my shots at the wound," Condes said, also in Filipino.

The champion took the initiative in the penultimate round, but Condes came right back in the 12th with clear heavy shots and outboxed Rachman the rest of the way.

Condes, together with manager Aljoe Jaro, trainer Francisco Jaro and lawyer-adviser Joey Mendoza, is expected to arrive in Manila at 8 p.m. today on a Philippine Airlines flight from Jakarta.

Donaire is planning to fly to the Philippines soon to meet relatives and fans. *With a report from Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor, and Inquirer wires*

DONAIRE jabs Darchinyan from Australia during their IBF flyweight championship match in Bridgeport, Connecticut. REUTERS



Sevens keep turning up . . .

From page A1

blessed by events relating to her favorite number, 7.

Padaca spoke about the seemingly fortuitous recurrence of No. 7 in her life before attending a thanksgiving party on Saturday, July 7, 2007—or 7/7/07. The affair was organized by a political supporter in Quezon City to celebrate her reelection as governor of Isabela.

"I believe I am more blessed than lucky, and it is interesting because many good things that have come my way had something to do with my favorite number," she said in a phone interview.

Padaca recalled growing up with a fascination for 7 because "G"—her name's initial letter (she is known by the name "Grace")—is the seventh letter of the alphabet.

"When I was in high school, I was fond of covering my notebooks with pages of old magazines that always bore the No. 7," she said.

Prayers, not luck

But Padaca believes her recent successes had more to do with her being spiritual than lucky.

"As one who works hard and prays even harder, I say what's known as pure luck has a very minor role in my life," she said.

Padaca was proclaimed governor of Isabela on June 28, barely two days before her fresh term was to start.

This after more than six weeks of delay due to a pre-proclamation protest filed by her rival, former Isabela Gov. Benjamin Dy—which the seven-member Commission on Elections en banc subsequently dismissed.

Help from allies

For her victory, she credited the contributions of her closest allies, including Isabela Rep. Edwin Uy and Vice Gov. Ramon Reyes, who both also won fresh mandates.

Padaca noted that Uy's first and last names totaled seven letters while Reyes celebrated his 60th birthday on July 7.

"No matter how great is my desire to carry out all the things I want for the good of the people of Isabela, I am sure that this could not be done by me alone. I thank them so much for being there always," she said.

Poetic justice

In her inaugural speech last week, Padaca also thanked the members of her family who, she said, have been the source of her strength. She apologized that they had become the subject of attacks by her detractors during the campaign.

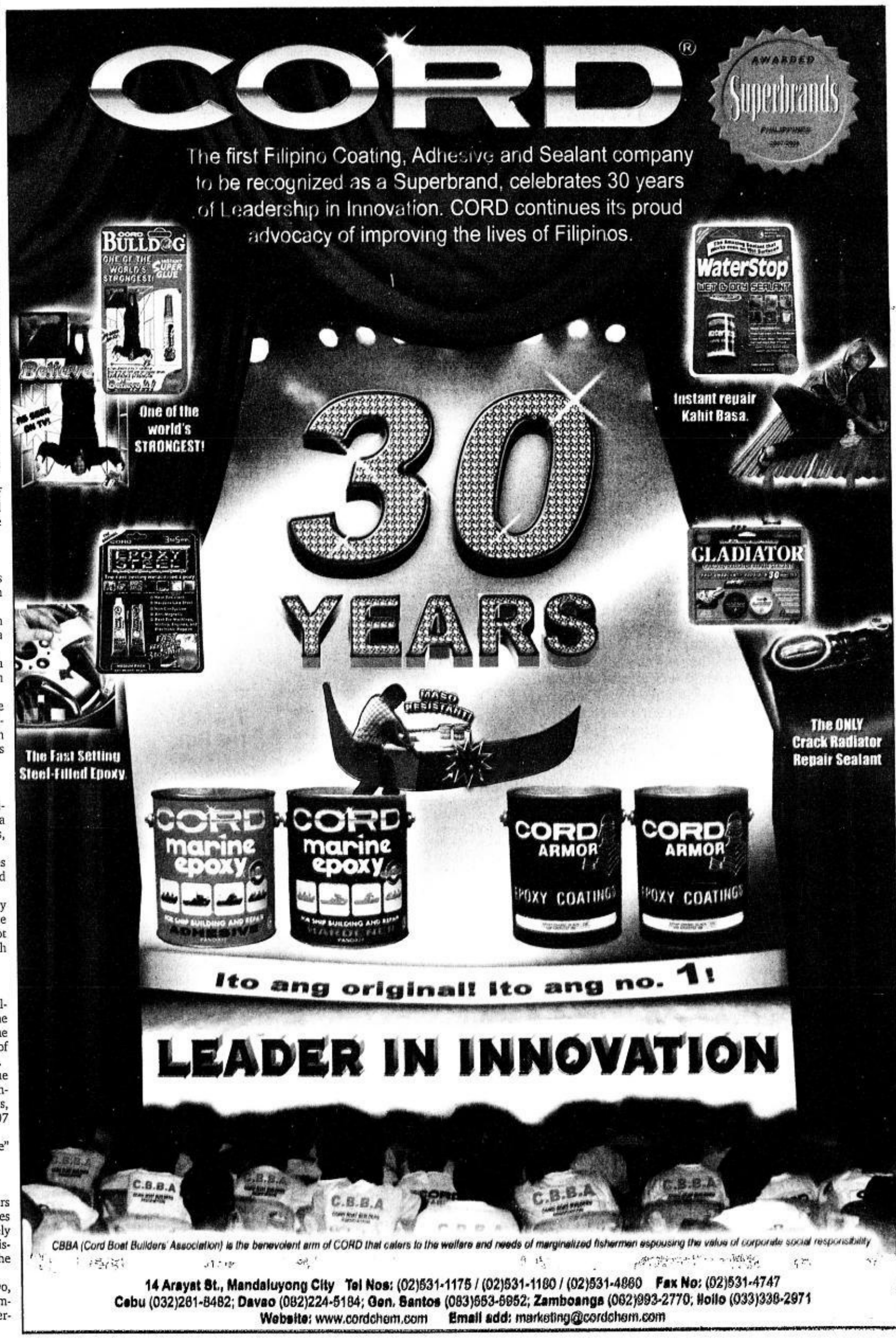
No. 7 seemed to insinuate itself even in the final election results. In the official count conducted by the provincial board of canvassers, Padaca won over Dy by a margin of 17,007 votes.

It turned out to be a case of "poetic justice" for her, Padaca said.

What 007 meant

"Sometime in December (2006), posters came out and were hung on the roadsides with markings of '007.' These were widely known in Isabela as a teaser as it was a discreet way of campaigning for my rival," she said.

The number, she said, actually meant, "Oo, si Ben (Yes, it's Ben)"—an allusion to the campaign to return Dy, a former three-term governor of Isabela, to office.



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Trillanes in jail

EDITORIAL

HARD CASES, THE AMERICAN JURIST OLIVER Wendell Holmes Jr. reminded the community of lawyers over a hundred years ago, make for bad law. Difficulty is a function of public passion or, in Holmes' elegant phrasing, "some accident of immediate overwhelming interest which appeals to the feelings and distorts the judgment."

The charges against Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV make for one such case. Should the soldier accused of leading a coup d'etat be allowed either temporary or conditional liberty, to allow him to discharge his duties as a new member of the Senate? Should he enjoy a change in his custody status, from military detention to perhaps the custody of the Senate? Not least, should his election to the Senate, on the strength of over 11 million votes, be considered as absolving him of his liability?

It is important to note that, while the Magdalo uprising which Trillanes is alleged to have led is familiarly described as a mutiny, mutineering charges against him have already been dropped. To date, Trillanes faces "only" two charges: Before a general court martial he is accused of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. And before the Makati regional trial court he is accused of taking part in an attempted coup.

If the court martial finds him guilty, he will be punished with a dishonorable discharge from military service. Since under military rules any soldier who files a certificate of candidacy is immediately considered resigned, this punishment is somewhat redundant. Trillanes has already been dropped from the rolls.

If the RTC finds Trillanes guilty, on the other hand, he can receive the maximum penalty: reclusion perpetua.

A lawyer familiar with his case suggests a way out for a military leadership embarrassed by Trillanes' election victory: drop the conduct unbecoming charge, because his candidacy had already discharged him from the service. And then cooperate with the Senate to transfer custody from the military to the upper chamber.

This solution has the appeal of a conqueror's sword slicing a Gordian knot in two. It will certainly soothe the "immediate overwhelming interest" of a public eagerly following the *telenovela*-like fate of a detainee-turned-senator. For this very reason, however, a reconsideration is in order.

The need of the moment is for Trillanes, as an elected official, to be allowed the opportunity to serve his mandate. This does not mean substituting the elections for the court proceedings he must undergo; it only means allowing him to attend all Senate sessions and committee meetings necessary for his work as a legislator.

This arrangement can be made even without dropping any of the two cases he is facing. In the first place, precisely because both trials are ongoing and there is no finding yet, Trillanes must be presumed to be innocent. He cannot be deemed to have forfeited any of his political rights. (A determination by either the court martial or the RTC that he cannot attend Senate sessions at all confuses accusation with conviction.)

In the second place, effective discharge from military service is not the same as dishonorable discharge. For policy reasons, AFP Chief of Staff Hermogenes Esperon may well drop the Trillanes case and end the court martial proceedings; by exactly the same token, however, he may decide to let the trial continue, perhaps to send a message to other military adventurists. If he does so, he will run right smack into a Great Wall of resistance: as the post-election survey of military voters revealed, a great many in the AFP voted for Trillanes and consider reform in the military a just cause. But that is Esperon's decision, and his own lookout.

In the third place, the crime of coup d'etat is serious indeed. Election into office does not extinguish criminal liability. Now that Trillanes is a senator, it is incumbent on the Department of Justice, if it truly has the evidence to send Trillanes to jail, to prosecute the case to the best of its ability. Prosecution, however, should not prevent the DOJ, the AFP and even the Senate to enter into a temporary arrangement, one that will allow Trillanes to serve in the office he was elected to.

Justice may be blind, but it can—and it should—also listen to the roar of the crowd.

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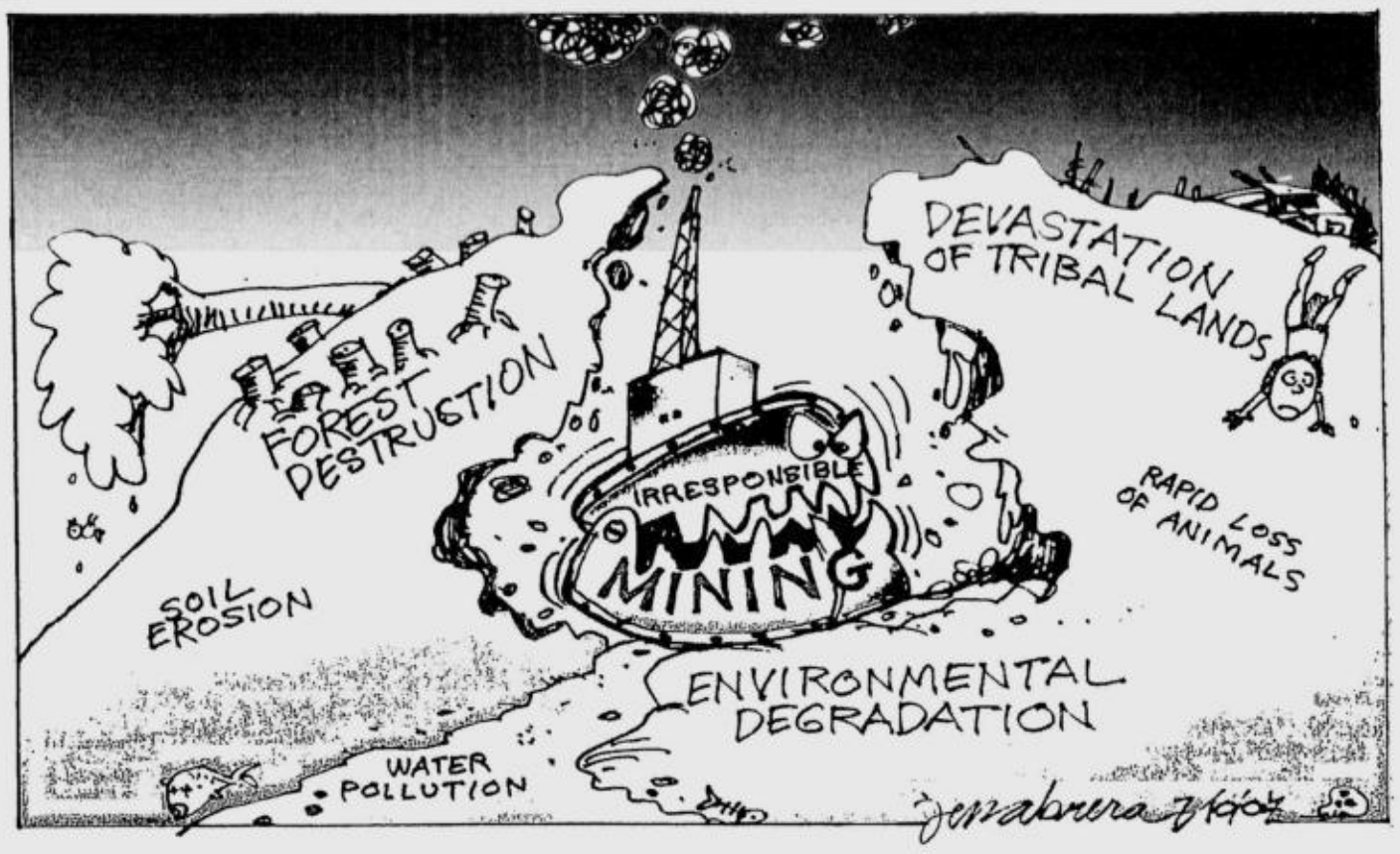

Yes, but will power rates go up or not?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LAST JUNE 22, I WROTE IN THIS COLUMN about a possible increase in electricity rates because of the return of the hated Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA). A few days ago, my good friend Elpi Cuna, vice president for corporate communication of Meralco, faxed a letter "to clarify some of the points raised in the column regarding Meralco." I am printing that letter here in the spirit of transparency and fair play.

"In your article [Cuna wrote] you mentioned the amendment of Section 4e Rule 3 in the IRR (Implementing Rules and Regulations) of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) as if it was an opportunity for Meralco to take advantage of its consumers. The fact is, with the suspension of the automatic adjustment of the generation charge for Meralco in September 2006, Meralco has to advance payments to its suppliers before it can collect the full generation costs from its customers. Going through the monthly filings has resulted in a substantial regulatory lag or delay in the collection of legitimate generation cost and systems loss charges. This lag has stretched to as much as five months, from just one under the Automatic Generation Rate Adjustment Mechanism (Agra) prescribed by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

"While we know that you meant well in wanting to protect the consumers, such protection should not compromise the viability of a company, especially of a utility company, that renders such a vital service as electricity. To date, we estimate our under-recoveries in generation costs alone to be at more than P13 billion... With this amendment to Section 4e Rule 3 in the IRR of the Epira, we will have timely adjustment of pass-through charges, which in turn will communicate the appropriate pricing signals to consumers, part and parcel of the transparency the Nasecore has been harping on.

"...You mentioned that in 'Meralco's contract with Quezon Power, the base coal price was $51 per metric ton when the market price at that time the deal was signed in the late 1990s was only $31.' There is no base price per metric ton in our agreement with Quezon Power dated August 12, 1994.

"Let me now go point by point to the issues you raised:

"1. ...only ERC will be reviewing the applications for cost recoveries: the public, or consumers, will be excluded." Your source forgot to inform you that all of Meralco's contracts with its suppliers (National Power Corp., Independent Power Producers) have been approved by ERC/ERB through a process that included public hearings. NPC basic rates are approved through the same process. All adjustment mechanisms, including the Gram and Agra, undergo a series of public consultations (with Nasecore participating) before they are promulgated by ERC.

"2. The JCPC should include, in any revision of the Epira IRR, provisions that will protect public interest."

"a. Information on the cost of power from each supplier will be available in the Meralco website. However, the unbundling should not end with the main suppliers of Meralco (NPC, Wesm, the IPPs) as suggested. NPC should also provide information on the cost of its various plants and IPPs, and Wesm similarly should provide information on who supplied the volume purchased by Meralco together with the attendant selling price.

"b. Meralco's contracts with the IPPs, all of which have been approved by ERB, have fixed and variable components, typical to most IPP contracts, including those of the NPC with its own IPPs. Sourcing power solely from NPC does not free Meralco from paying the fixed costs attendant to the said contracts. That is the reason why Meralco has pushed for the dispatch of the IPPs at no less than contract levels or the minimum energy quantity (MEQ) as a lower generation cost is achieved if the fixed cost is spread over a greater number of kilowatt-hours.

"c. There are no clearer guidelines as these to validate and verify the recovery of costs from customers: 1) All contracts must be approved by ERC/ERB; 2) Inclusion of the cost of these contracts should strictly follow the ERC prescribed formula.

"d. If you will look at the back of the electricity bill, you will see a line-by-line, easy to understand breakdown of the charges, as required by the Epira. Rest assured that the current Meralco bill has been reviewed and approved by the ERC.

"e. We agree that cost of metering does not increase with consumption. In fact, for industrial and non-industrial customers, the metering charge is P317.74 per customer/month. For the residential customers, however, the metering charge is stated as a charge of P5 per customer and P0.2435 per kwh. This means that small consuming residential customers pay a lower charge than those that consume more ... This is an example of intra-class subsidy, where large residential customers pay more to subsidize the smaller users.

"f. In addition, it is not true that Meralco's systems loss is at 15.4 percent. For 2006, that figure was less than 11 percent. The collection of system loss charge is provided by Republic Act 7832 to allow the distribution facilities to recover the cost of power lost due to both technical and non-technical losses. The law, however, only allows Meralco to recover at the 9.5 percent system loss cap, or the actual level, whichever is lower... It will be the distribution facilities that will shoulder the cost of losses beyond the 9.5 percent cap set by the law....

"g. Meralco has not overcharged its customers under RORB (return on rate base) nor will it overcharge under performance-based rate-making (PBR). Eight percent has never been the RORB limit for private utilities. Even Epira does not prescribe what the reasonable return is, but leaves it to the ERC to determine."

Eruptions

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

DO I SYMPATHIZE WITH TEOFISTO GUINGOna's turnaround from "J'accuse" to "Je pardonne" in the case of Erap?

Not really. I know Guingona to be a man of reasonably good instincts and even more reasonably good balls. But I do not share his enthusiasm for seeing Erap freed. In fact I do not share his enthusiasm for Erap's fate at all.

My reason for it is simply this: Whether Erap is convicted or acquitted, it won't serve the ends of law or justice or public interest.

First, the law or legal part. Why will the ends of the law be served one way or the other? If Erap is acquitted, then by rights he should still be president. If he never stole, then what the hell did we overthrow him for? Lest we forget, the near-exclusive basis for "betrayal of public trust," for which he was impeached, was that he stole. He didn't lie, he didn't kill, he just stole. He stole money and women's hearts, but the latter is another story and a non-impeachable crime in any case. If he is not guilty of pillage, he should be forthwith restored as president to serve out the years taken away from him.

If he is convicted, then he isn't just deemed guilty, the people who sit in judgment over him are deemed innocent. After 2004 at least, Erap's case is no longer just about Erap, it is also about GMA. It is about a current president that has no legitimacy presuming to judge an ex-president who forfeited it by theft. A president who is widely perceived to have stolen the vote has no right to judge a president who was widely perceived—lest we forget, that was the only basis for ousting Erap; he was never found guilty by the impeachment court—to have stolen the money. To convict Erap isn't just to decree him degenerate, it is to decree GMA legitimate.

Law is the last thing either sentence will accomplish. Lawlessness is first.

Second, the justice or moral part. Why will the ends of justice be served one way or the other? If Erap is acquitted, then it will show that crooks may never be punished in this country. The reason many Filipinos, myself included, stood up to applaud Erap's arrest and incarceration then was the grand idea that we were finally going after big fry, and none came bigger than Erap in every possible sense of the word. We were setting an example, whose import was breathtaking. Henceforth, like Japan and Korea, we were sending a message to all and sundry: You rob, you sob.

But if Erap is convicted, it won't say that this country is capable of justice, it will say that this country is capable of monstrous injustice. Selective justice is worse than frustrated justice. The spectacle of a pauper jailed for stealing a loaf of bread alongside a politician asked to grace fiestas for stealing road and bridge money is worse than no one being jailed at all. As I said last time, by sheer contrast with his successor, Erap looks like a penny-ante thief. Erap made us only the second most corrupt country in Asia, GMA made us the first. Erap merely stole money, GMA stole votes. Erap merely stole laughter, GMA stole lives.

Convicting Erap won't be a triumph of justice, it will be a triumph of hypocrisy.

Last, the public interest or political part. Why will public interest be served one way or the other? If Erap is convicted then it will strengthen the hand of the coup regime that has ruled this country with an iron fist since 2004. Convicting Erap won't be a legal or, heaven forbid, moral decision, it will be a political one. It will be based on Malacañang's calculation of the whirlwind it stands to reap. No whirlwind, no mercy. Convicting Erap will be like forcing Zubiri through, keeping Trillanes in detention, or mounting another attempt to oust Binay from Makati. It depends on public wrath, or the lack of it.

The way I look at it, Malacañang's best bet is to have Erap convicted but pardon him afterward. That will defuse the potential for another Edsa III, while making a case for its legal, moral and political authority and making Erap traceable to all sorts of deals. But you never know, this country's rulers' arrogance, or hubris, knows no bounds.

If Erap is acquitted, well, the implications are awesome. At the very least, it will allow Erap to rally the elements opposed to GMA around him. If he should still prove immensely popular—being free should give him all the access to media he wants—expect those positioning themselves for 2010 to drift toward him like moths to a flame or flies to dung.

But far more than that, an Erap acquittal will put enormous pressure on the regime's legitimacy. If Erap is innocent of the charges against him, then by rights he should still be president. Alternatively, a freed Erap becomes a surrogate FPJ. Everyone agreed then that had FPJ been around during the revelation of the "Hello Garci" tape, GMA would not have weathered the fallout. In a country where the lines between myth and history, actors and pretenders, past and present, are more blurred than Raul Gonzalez' vision, Erap's capacity to embody both the wronged Erap and the wronged FPJ is boundless.

There is some public interest there, which is probably what Guingona et al. are trying to exploit: It brings a force to confront the tyranny that is crushing us underfoot. But there is an even bigger bane to public interest there: It brings us back to the impasse that has paralyzed this country for so long, which is the choice between one tyranny and another. The only reason GMA has survived notwithstanding having driven this country to this desperate pass is—Erap. The reason we have been driven to lethargy and cynicism is simply that we have not been given a choice between Good and Evil, we have only been given a choice between one evil and another.

My own position is simply this:
Free Erap? Just jail Gloria.

The Yamashita Doctrine

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

WHEN THE NAME YAMASHITA APPEARS IN media these days, what usually comes to mind is the elusive Yamashita gold. But there is more to the Yamashita name than gold. More important for our age of terrorism and extrajudicial killings is the doctrine that was accepted in the prosecution of Tomoyuki Yamashita, the commanding general of the 14th Area Army of Japan operating in the Philippines during World War II. The decision in the prosecution of General Yamashita established the doctrine of "command responsibility" of military commanders. When you consider that Yamashita was the highest ranking military officer of the Japanese armed forces in the Philippines, you can imagine the possible implications the doctrine can have on the current situation in the Philippines. True, the Yamashita case was prosecuted under military and not civilian law; but at the heart of the case was the responsibility of the military commander for the actions of the soldiers under his command.

It is not as if the foundation of the Yamashita prosecution was a novel discovery. The ancients had known about it long before. As Justice Perfecto said in 1945 in Yamashita v. Styer: "Many of the basic ideas which prevail today in the customs and usages of nations and which have become part of the international law emerged from the human mind centuries before the Christian era." Even the doctrine of command responsibility itself is of ancient origin. Sun Tzu recognized it in his sixth century classic The Art of War, and the Holy Roman Empire applied it as early as 1474.

The modern doctrine of command responsibility began to be defined more clearly in the Tribunal decision on the case of Yamashita. Simply put, military commanders are responsible for war crimes committed by subordinate members of the armed forces or other persons subject to their control. It is essentially an omission offense, that is, a failure of the commander to prevent or punish subordinates for their unlawful acts.

Necessarily therefore it supposes some degree of knowledge on the part of the commander. But what degree of knowledge is required? Certainly actual knowledge can be the basis of punishment of the commander. But can something less be the basis?

The lesser degree of knowledge is referred to as "constructive knowledge." After World War II two different degrees of constructive knowledge have been espoused by those who write about command responsibility. The stricter formulation says that "the commander should, in the circumstances, have known of his subordinates' unlawful actions, thereby placing him under a proactive duty to keep informed of troops' activities." But a less strict standard would hold a commander responsible "only where he fails to discover his subordinates' actions from information already available to him."

What standard was followed in the Yamashita case?

Yamashita was charged with "unlawfully disregarding and failing to discharge his duty as a commander to control the acts of members of his command by permitting them to commit war crimes." The Tribunal found him guilty for having made no effective attempt to discover and control the criminal acts in the context of widespread vengeful actions of the soldiery. Authors are divided on whether what was used was the strict standard or the more lenient standard. But some also read the Yamashita decision as saying that the commander "should have known." Thus the debate on the degree of knowledge required for conviction continues.

Additional Protocol I of the Geneva Convention now addresses the knowledge factor by defining command responsibility thus: "The fact that a breach of the Conventions or of this Protocol was committed by a subordinate does not absolve his superiors from ...responsibility ... if they knew, or had information which should have enabled them to conclude in the circumstances at the time, that he was committing or about to commit such a breach and if they did not take all feasible measures within their power to prevent or repress the breach."

All this, however, is about command responsibility in the context of conventional wars. Does the doctrine have applicability on the war on terror and can it reach military commanders in time of peace?

The International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY) says that the fact that crimes "were committed by a subordinate does not relieve his superior of criminal responsibility if he knew or had reason to know that the subordinate was about to commit such acts or had done so and the superior failed to take the necessary and reasonable measures to prevent such acts or to punish the perpetrators."

Under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, military commanders can be held responsible for the crimes of subordinates if they "either knew or, owing to the circumstances at the time, should have known that the forces were committing or about to commit such crimes."

Although the Philippines, following the lead of George W. Bush, is not a party to the Rome Treaty, we do accept the doctrine of command responsibility of military commanders. This is clearly stated by Gen. Hermogenes C. Esperon Jr. in an order released on February 4, 2007. To date, however, the military command has professed no knowledge of military responsibility for extra-judicial killings and other human rights violations.

A victory for senior citizens

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST THURSDAY, THE SUPREME COURT, IN A 15-PAGE decision penned by Associate Justice Adolf Azcuna, upheld the constitutionality of a provision of Republic Act No. 9257 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003. Among other benefits, the provision gives senior citizens aged 60 and above a 20-percent discount on the purchase of medicines from all establishments.

Without going into the details of the recent decision, let me say that the high court's action is a significant milestone in the efforts to get people to acknowledge and recognize the validity and the need for assistance to the elderly in our society as provided for by the Constitution. For sometime now, the implementation of this law has been, to say the least, spotty, with business establishments and government offices reluctant to take clear and decisive measures to ensure that senior citizens receive what is due them.

Our readers may recall that last April, I mentioned that we have a National Inter-Agency Coordinating and Monitoring Board (NCMB) chaired by the social welfare secretary, that is charged with "developing effective monitoring and reporting systems towards an efficient, consistent, uniformed implementation of the law." The board is also responsible for formulating a National Plan of Action for Senior Citizens. I added that perhaps the current head of the DSWD, Secretary Esperanza Cabral, could devote more time to a vigorous implementation of the Senior Citizens Act.

In response to my comments, Secretary Cabral sent me a two-page letter which, in effect, reiterated what was already known to the public in general—basically the use of the credit card and Department of Health administrative orders.

We thank her for the reply. But apparently the good Secretary is not aware of some of the difficulties being encountered by senior citizens in the actual implementation of the Senior Citizens Act.

Let me cite a specific example.

When a senior citizen pays for medical services, in particular diagnostic and laboratory tests, he is billed for these tests without any indication whatsoever that he has been granted the 20-percent discount due him. Unlike in a restaurant where the price of each dish is indicated, he is completely in the dark as to what each test actually costs. In fact, some medical establishments claim that some tests are not covered by the 20-percent discount. We are completely at the mercy of their judgment on these matters.

Why do I address this matter to Social Welfare Secretary Cabral when it could also rightfully end up as a Department of Health issue?

I do this because Section 12 of Republic Act No. 9257 stipulates that the secretary of the DSWD shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) in consultation and coordination with other agencies, among them the Department of Health. In effect, it is the DSWD that serves as the lead agency for the implementation of the law and at this particular time, we need more dynamism in the manner of addressing the concerns of the elderly.

One possible area of intervention: Has the NCMB chaired by the Social Welfare Secretary considered requiring medical establishments to set up a schedule of diagnostic and laboratory fees so that senior citizens can be satisfied that they are enjoying the benefits provided by law? In this way, overcharging can also be monitored and checked by appropriate government agencies. The entire process will need some adjustments in the way medical establishments conduct their business. But in the long run, our senior citizens will be better served.

Now that the Supreme Court has ruled on the matter, it is partly our responsibility to ensure that the rule of law prevails. If there are questions or doubts about the implementation of the law, we must overcome the timidity to raise these issues and seek clarification from government authorities. Keeping quiet would be like waiting for manna to fall from heaven and this attitude will not get us anywhere. Remember that if we act now, succeeding generations will be able to easily enjoy the benefits that have been provided for the elderly.

At this point, let us give credit where credit is due.

Sen. Edgardo Angara is the author of the original Senior Citizens Act (Republic Act No. 7432). Unfortunately, the Angara version had a stipulation that the senior citizen should not be earning more than P60,000 per annum. This practically meant that not too many people who were qualified by age could legally take advantage of the law. In other countries, age was all that mattered as far as senior citizen benefits were concerned.

To correct this situation, Rep. Eduardo Zialcita of Parañaque City and then Sen. Noli de Castro authored the Expanded Senior Citizens Act. The new law removed the P60,000 threshold and went on to declare that a driver's license, passport, or any ID issued by the mayor or barangay captain was sufficient proof of the senior citizen's entitlement. (However, for uniformity, it is best to have a senior citizen's ID issued by the mayor's office.) I might also mention that it was Vice President Noli de Castro who was mainly instrumental in the acceptance by drugstores of the credit card for purchases of medicines with the 20-percent discount. In the past, credit card payments were not being allowed the 20-percent discount authorized for senior citizens.

We thank all these lawmakers for the concern and support that they have shown the more than 6 million elderly citizens in our society.

* * *

Two weeks ago, a colleague in government and a close family friend passed away. Capt. Romeo Malig (PN), a member of the Philippine Military Academy class of 1965, served with me in the Bureau of Customs first as the head of the National Customs Police and later as the Collector at the Manila International Airport. In both postings, Romy performed with integrity and a high sense of dedication.

Not many people are aware of the fact that after leaving the service, Malig joined American President Lines (APL). Here he climbed the company ladder, becoming the first and only Filipino country manager of APL. This distinction put Romy permanently in the Who's Who list of the Philippine shipping industry. From APL, he became president of Lorenzo Shipping Corporation.

Rest well, dear friend, and thank you for everything.

A 'new dawn' or another nightfall

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

YOU CAN'T MISS THE SIGNS. OVER THE LAST decade, a new generation in their late 30s to the early 50s are taking over. Our doctors are friends of our children. Business is being led by young, bright and driven professionals. Scions are replacing their founding fathers. Music, drama, art and literature have taken directions, now baffling, now mesmerizing. A saga by itself is the all powerful multi-media created by genuine talents or by shabby spinmeisters.

One morning we IT-illiterate elders, still dreamy over 104.4's "Too Young" and TCM's Cary Grant, will wake up to a presence that will nudge us, "I'm here; move over." Does it matter what the old royals of Europe felt about the "Concert for Diana"?

I hasten to add, of course, that any takeover generation has much to draw from their elders' stabilizing wisdom and experience, a priceless deposit that is sometimes patronized.

And now in two of the most powerful and visible institutions, politics and the Church, here comes Francis "Chiz" Escudero telling the "old guard" to be "ready for out-of-the-box thinking because if we continue to do the same things, we will have the same results." Here come Antonio Trillanes "with guns blazing," Alan Peter Cayetano, Noynoy Aquino and, still trembling in the balance, Koko Pimentel or Migz Zubiri. And on a comeback are Loren Legarda and Kiko Pangilinan. It's not just the casual clothes that send signals but the freshness of their youth—the confidence, the ambition, the brashness and we hope, not the big mouth.

And what do we have for the Church? Here are Archbishop Oscar Cruz resigning from his diocese to go back to farming, "his first love;" Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales too, and Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and "five or six more." Young Bishop Socrates Villegas succeeds Archbishop Cruz "to lead war on jueteng." It's a "hot seat" for mild-mannered Bishop Villegas who may have already been initiated to what lies ahead. Didn't he fire a strong salvo against the flawed Bataan elections?

Already, former seminarian-students of mine, now priests, have held critical positions: prefect of discipline, spiritual director, seminary formator, rector, dean of students, professor, etc. and as parish priests in the country.

And here comes Fr. Ed Panlilio in a daunting position straddling both politics and Church! Pray for him, as the balance he must keep is precarious indeed: one side for politics whose good name he aims to restore and the other for the Church whose tainted political past he must avoid at all cost. "But I am not afraid, I have already committed my whole self to the crusade for good governance."

How will the new breed in politics and Church perform?

Friend Peachy asks, "Are our young politicians prepared? Do they read, study?" Or is it just going to be the gift of gab? From the e-mail, Grace Abella Zota laments the defeat of Ralph Recto who studied and sponsored the E-VAT: "*pa-cute ka na lang at maging 'palaban'. Mas madali pa iyon kaysa mag-aral.*" The young breed is good at "*pa-cute*" and fiercely "*palaban*", but ill-preparedness is legend among politicians.

Father Ed and team are taking a crash course on effective local governance at the Ateneo School of Government. "I am preparing physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually." No one feels like saying "*mani-wala ka diyan*." He has credibility and moral ascendancy too which many politicians lose or never have. Remember the "Spice Boys" and "Bright Boys" of Congress who lost their sparkle like last New Year's fireworks?

The new breed can learn a lot from elders like Senators Arroyo and Angara who said "they will learn so much." But ominously, depending on what happens, Angara said "it will be the young Turks, not the senior citizens, who will change." Does this mean that rather than change the system, the young Turks will be eaten by the system?

As for the new breed in the Church, what may lie ahead? It's obvious that the hierarchy is finding its very mission ineluctably drawn into sociopolitical matters if it is to become effective at all, even as some sectors are mightily trying to keep religion and politics apart. The justice and moral issues are so pressing that the Church is finding it more and more difficult to distance itself from involvement.

The dilemma has actually crystallized in the very person and crusade of Father Ed for whom the Church may swing between support for one of its own or Pilate-like silence. Hierarchy sees the problem embodied in Father Ed's crusade and will surely rise to the occasion.

Archbishop Cruz, who will continue to work, write and study, and others, like-minded and disposed, are not about to go to pasture. Bishop Villegas and young priests moving forward to "take over" will need such elders. Is there a call for other styles of evangelization? New attitudes? Continued study of developments in theology beyond seminary studies?

So, what lies ahead—a new dawn or another nightfall?

Asuncion David Maramba is a retired professor, book editor and occasional journalist. Comments to marda_ph@yahoo.com; fax 821-0659

Cheap and easy guarantee

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

THE PRESIDENT LOOKED RELIEVED—ELATED, even—when Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim said he would guarantee that she'd stay in office until 2010, and that there will be no disorder, "most especially in Malacañang." What Hizzoner the Mayor probably meant was, he would personally ensure that no mob would try to storm the Palace gates. But as for what goes on inside the Palace—the disorder, for example, within the President's official family, some of whom seem to have refused to submit to a revamp—some things are beyond anyone's control, most especially the Mayor of Manila, and even, it seems, the President.

But did Lim issue a gallant guarantee? The President definitely thought so. But rather than being an act of gallantry, Lim's reassurances were really sweet nothings—a kind of political flirtation, a flattering but essentially meaningless exchange of compliments, with a patronizing undertone neither the President nor her boosters managed to grasp. "Ah, hello, you're here! So it seems, you are the President; don't you worry, little lady, Lim the Brave and Bold is here," is what he essentially said.

The President should have been furious; her media trumpeters should have issued rootin' tootin' statements to the effect that the chief executive can defend herself and doesn't require a mayor's assurances. Instead, she grinned broadly and shook his hand.

Obviously, Lim's expressions of gallant tolerance were what the President deeply, even desperately, wanted to hear, and so Lim gave the President what she wanted, since it cost him nothing. There won't be a mob. And even if there are those raring to come knocking at the Palace gates, they no longer have the numbers, means, or motivation, to put either the President's job or life in peril, or to force the Manila Mayor's hand.

The Mayor's confidence—who's the boss? Why, himself!—was best demonstrated by a dismissive remark he made, when leftists complained the Manila Mayor had only opened up half of Mendiola to protesters. Hizzoner said, "They used to be banned on Mendiola, and now I'm allowing them to use half and they're still complaining." *Anak ng pucha naman, o*: "the law applies to all, otherwise none at all." Lim, in Manila, is the law. Got it?

But it's the President's insecurity—and not Mayor Lim's swagger—that should interest us. When Franklin D. Roosevelt advised his countrymen that the only thing they had to fear was fear itself, he went on to describe fear as that "nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance." After the trauma of May 1, 2001, fear has so conditioned the President's mind that her first instinct is to close the Palace gates, erect barricades across all roads leading to it, and sound the alarm whenever the name Joseph Estrada is mentioned.

When it finally became clear that the Sandiganbayan would have to wrap up the Estrada trial, and as it became obvious that a verdict would have to be handed down sooner rather than later, an unreasoning, unjustified terror seized the President. The alarm was sounded; advertisements were placed that enriched newspaper owners but only showed just how impoverished the Palace is, when it comes to either prudence or actual courage.

A Palace that doesn't think its own propaganda are lies—that really commands loyalty and doesn't have to buy it, and which has a genuine constituency instead of having to fake it—wouldn't be running around waving full-page ads in the air, would it? And it wouldn't end up visibly exhaling in relief over a Manila Mayor's guarantees.

Whatever the actual merits and demerits of the case, regardless of whether or not the court rules on the basis of law or tempers its decision on the basis of various political considerations, what's undeniable is that no one will really be surprised by whatever decision the court hands down. For Estrada's supporters, the whole trial has been a farce; for Estrada's detractors, the whole thing has taken too long and the man has been treated too kindly. As for the rest of the public, the whole trial is simply another case in which justice is for the great but beyond the reach of the small.

The Marcoses, for example, have been winning case after case in the courts after a long drought of legal victories. Their political rehabilitation is well underway: so Estrada may be down today, he will be up again some time in the future. In the end, what matters is to draw it out, engage the best lawyers possible, be secure in the knowledge everything is negotiable and that while one's ability to bargain may be weak or strong, as Amang Rodriguez famously said, "in the long of time, we shall success!"

I mean no disrespect to the courts, indeed I hear only complimentary things about the presiding judge in the Estrada case. I do think, though, that whatever questions of evidence or law are tackled in the Sandiganbayan decision, too many have already made up their minds and too few will try to keep their minds open. From the time the authorities made a martyr of a disgraced former president by the manner in which they dragged him off to detention, the cause of justice has been ill-served.

It's the President's being held hostage by fear that keeps giving her predecessor a self-perpetuating new lease on political life. The former president would have been handed down a verdict, not with a bang, but with a whimper, if the Palace had only played it cool. The great weakness of generals and politicians is that when they try to fight the next war using the tactics of the last war, they are doomed to fail. May 2001 proved it wasn't worth even his loyalists' while, to either suffer or die for Estrada. They will vote for his candidates, and hold him in affection: but they won't die for him, which places him at par with the President.

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LETTERS

The fault lies with DepEd, not publishers

TO ERR IS HUMAN; TO BLAME THE ERROR on others is even more human.

The Department of Education announced last June 30 that it has come out with a 21-page "Errata Guide" to correct 269 errors in seven Social Studies textbooks it approved for use in public schools this year. Why the three textbook suppliers agreed to shoulder the cost of printing the "Errata" baffles me. Didn't the DepEd, through its Instructional Materials Council Secretariat (IMCS), review and approve these books in the first place? Didn't the publishers pay from P20,000 to P40,000 in evaluation fees to have the IMCS review these books for errors? Isn't the 4-level process of textbook evaluation being implemented by the IMCS? If the answer to all three questions is "Yes," then it is not the publishers who should be blamed for those errors but the IMCS and the DepEd.

The issuance of "Errata" after the books had already been distributed and used is not the proper way to make books. Errors must be corrected before publication, marketing and distribution. That is the one and only fundamental reason for the existence of the IMCS. Textbooks, once they are in the possession of the students, must contain only minimal and minor errors.

People think I'm proud for not cooperating with the DepEd in correcting the errors I myself exposed. But how can you make someone correct his mistakes when he does not even admit he committed them? The DepEd must get its act together. It must be the "Educator" the Constitution mandated it to be, and the "Teacher" our children expect it to be. Otherwise, it becomes an error itself, the biggest error there is—a humongous "Something" that teaches what is not right, what is not correct and what is not good.

—ANTONIO CALIPJO GO,
academic supervisor,
Marian School of Quezon City,
199 Sauyo Road, Novaliches,
Quezon City 1116

Sen. Trillanes different from Rep. Jalosjos

PROSECUTORS HAVE INVOKED THE RULING in the Jalosjos case to oppose Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV's plan to seek leave of court to attend Senate sessions. They missed the nail and hit their thumbs directly instead. Their move is totally misplaced. It's like comparing a potato and a *camote*. The Jalosjos case involved multiple counts of rape. The Trillanes case involves a coup d'etat—clearly a political offense.

Last we checked, the biggest political offender of all, after Corazon Aquino, was Gloria Arroyo, who mounted a coup against Joseph Estrada. Her subsequent "election" to the presidency is said to have erased all political offenses committed by her and her cohorts.

More than 11 million Filipinos voted to exonerate Trillanes of the charges against him, but Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez can't? What's with him? He forgave Sen. Gregorio Honasan, whose middle name is "coup," hasn't he?

—STEVE Y. VESPERA,
styves888@yahoo.com

Only those who practice Islam are true Muslims

THIS IS A REACTION TO RAMON TULFO'S column titled "Discrimination a two-way street" (INQUIRER, 6/12/07), which pictured Muslims as bad people and narrated how "Muslim bandit groups" raped their non-Muslim female hostages.

As a regular reader of Tulfo's columns for many years, I have come to hold him in high regard, especially for his brave, hard-hitting columns on corrupt and abusive public officials. But this time, I am sorry to call him "illiterate" for stereotyping Muslims as bad people.

Tulfo can find out what a true Muslim is by doing some research at the Institute of Islamic Studies of the University of the Philippines. A true Muslim has to follow strictly all the commandments of Allah (Allah means God, your God, my God and the God of the whole world). The Holy Koran teaches these commandments. Some of them are:

1. To believe in one God (Allah) and in Muhammad, His last Prophet. (Some prophets before Muhammad were Noah, Moses and Aaron, Abraham, David, Jesus Christ and many others. Islam considers them Muslims.)

2. Not to kill or hurt any person unless justified under the law of Jihad.

3. Not to make love or engage in sex with women outside marriage. Mere seduction by either sex is a serious sin.

4. Not to steal, gamble, drink wine, eat the flesh of swine, utter bad words, backbite, bribe, judge unjustly, engage in usury and other immoral acts.

5. To pray five times a day as a reminder not to commit sin any time of the day. The failure to do this is a grave sin, except when one is very ill or traveling.

For Tulfo's information, I would like to state that only those who practice Islamic teachings are Muslims. Unreformed criminals are not Muslims, never mind that they profess the Islamic faith.

The irony here is whenever a Maranao, Maguindanaoan or Tausug, or even an Abu Sayyaf member, commits a crime, he is immediately referred to as a Muslim, just as Tulfo did when he referred to a "Muslim bandit group." But when the rapist or criminal is a Cebuano, Ilocano, Tagalog, or Waray, does the media refer to him as a Christian? Isn't this a form of discrimination against the Muslims by a Christian media?

It is sad that Tulfo, who's reputed to be one of our country's bravest and most intelligent journalists, does not know until now what a true Muslim is.

In the Peace Summit recently held in Cebu, law enforcement agencies and the media in the Visayas regions were advised to avoid the use of the word "Muslim" when referring to criminal suspects. Otherwise, we Muslims will continue to feel we are being discriminated against, thus further fueling misunderstanding and animosity between Muslims and Christians.

—IBRAHIM M. DIANALAN,
Cebu City

Letters from former Filipinos not fit to print

I READ WITH A MIXTURE OF MILD AMUSEMENT and seething anger the letter of Eugenia Decena-Young of New York (INQUIRER, 6/29/07) ranting and raving against our public officials for their failure to extend the North Luzon Expressway.

Frankly speaking, I am disgusted by fair-weather former Filipinos like Young, who become so high and mighty and unreasonably critical after abandoning the country and discarding their Philippine citizenship. Like Young, these former Filipinos have the "in-America-we-do-it-this-way" mind-set, which irritates me no end. What have these former Filipinos done to improve the state of their native land other than to send very few dollars to their relatives or to spend them while vacationing in the Philippines, brandishing their American or EU passports? And we're supposed to be grateful? Please.

I'm quite surprised that letters like Young's even get to see print. I am just plain sick and tired of these ingrates who do nothing but whine and act as if they're so fortunate and we aren't.

—ALLAN G. KATO,
103 Bayswater Rd.,
Makato South Hills,
Parañaque City

Students not entirely blameless for rot in PLM

IT'S QUITE SADDENING TO HEAR ABOUT reports on graft and corruption in the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. (INQUIRER, 6/25/07) As a sophomore student of that university, I was surprised by the substandard condition, if not the lack, of school facilities.

I believe that an institution is a reflection of its leadership. I'm a tad disappointed with the quality of education students get from the school.

On the other hand, I cannot say that we students are completely blameless. I guess in times like these, it is better to make the best of the situation rather than sulk in frustration. Gandhi couldn't have said it better: "Be the change you want to see in the world."

PLM students, faculty, personnel and everyone affiliated with this institution could be the change we want to see in the world, by excelling in our respective fields of endeavor—with integrity, humility and nationalism.

—RIA JONSON,
eysa13@yahoo.com

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Explain low quarry income, Lapids urged

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A GROUP OF BUSINESSMEN WANTS the Pampanga provincial board to summon Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid and his son, former Gov. Mark Lapid, and ask them to explain the low quarry income during their respective stints as governors.

The Advocacy for the Development of Central Luzon (ADCL) also wants the board to pursue graft cases against the Lapids for their alleged failure to collect and remit the proper taxes from Mt. Pinatubo's sand.

ADCL, through its chair, Rene Romero, made the call on Sunday after Gov. Eddie Panlilio reported an income of P5 million from sand taxes in his first five days in office.

"The Lapids should be made to account where the quarry income went. If there are bases to hale them to court for graft, that must be done. If they need to return the money to the capitol, they should do [it] so the funds could be used [for] infrastructure and provide social services," Romero told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

In a Feb. 9, 2005, congressional hearing, Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao reported a "discrepancy" of P337.1 million between the collections of the Natural Resources Development Corp. from 1999 to 2001 and the elder Lapid's administration from 2002 to 2004.

In the case he filed at the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman in March, Guiao estimated that the younger Lapid and provincial treasurer Vergel Yabut allegedly failed to collect between P673.2 million and P1 billion in quarry taxes from 2004 up to the first two months of 2007.

Romero said on the whole, "local governments must adopt a strong anti-graft campaign by punishing the grafters to prevent the waste of public funds."

"We want to send a strong message against graft. We want the capitol to institutionalize a system that will prevent graft in the system of collecting quarry taxes," he said.

Romero said Panlilio's initial efforts to correct the system and improve tax collection have proven that "much, much more income could be gained from sand."

IN THE KNOW

QUARRY TAXES
Year Collections

(At P40/truckload of sand)

1993	P1.696 M
1994	P2.127 M
1995	P2.200 M
1996	P7.130 M
(NO REPORTS FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY)	
1997	P10.717 M
1998	P9.334 M
1999	P5.222 M
(ONLY FOR JUNE, JULY, AT P80/TRUCKLOAD)	

At P300/truckload of sand

1999	P150.448 M
2000	P137.577 M
2001	P106.449 M

At P300/truckload of sand

2002	P24.298 M
2003	P10.275 M
2004	P10.530 M
2005	P38.505 M
2006	P29.115 M
2007	P 3.195 M
(JANUARY, FEBRUARY)	

At P30/truckload of sand as regulatory fee

2004	P18.455 M
2005	P 9.346 M
2006	P 7.204 M
2005	P13.549 M
2006	P13.337 M

SOURCES OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL ACCOUNTANT, NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CORP. OF DENR, OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL TREASURER, OFFICE OF THE TREASURER, PORAC; OFFICE OF THE TREASURER, BACOLOR

The capitol collects a tax of P300 for every truckload of sand hauled out of the province.

ADCL, Romero said, would support the anti-graft crusade of Panlilio and help Guiao in the graft case he filed against the younger Lapid.

The elder Lapid served as governor for three terms from 1995 to 2004. His son served the same post for a term, from 2004 to 2007.

They could not be reached for comment on Sunday. An aide of the senator and a former staff member of the former governor said the Lapids left for the United States in the last week of June.

In past interviews, however, the Lapids denied enriching themselves from quarry income.

In July 2004, the Sandiganbayan's fifth division dismissed a case involving alleged anomalies in the quarry industry against the elder Lapid after the Office of the Ombudsman filed a motion to withdraw the information.

Yabut did not answer the INQUIRER's calls to his mobile phone. The mobile phone of former provincial administrator Fidel Arcenas was off.

The former Lapid staff, who did not want to be named for lack of authority to speak on the issue, said it should be clarified that the P5 million in quarry taxes collected last week under Panlilio represented the receipts bought by quarry operators or haulers.

"The receipts were paid in advance but those did not mean that [these] were actually hauled during the past week. The receipts may represent hauling for a month," the source in Lapid's camp said.

Romero said this still has to be seen, but the point was that "at least, Panlilio has shown that the capitol could raise so much funds in only a few days."

The P5-million collection was 17.18 percent of the P29.1 million generated by the administration of former Gov. Mark Lapid for 2006, an INQUIRER review of capitol reports on quarry income showed.

Guiao said the next move after collecting the proper taxes was to "prevent the same corrupt practices from happening again."

The provincial board, he said, was looking at creating legislation to institutionalize a system of collection and monitoring of quarry taxes.

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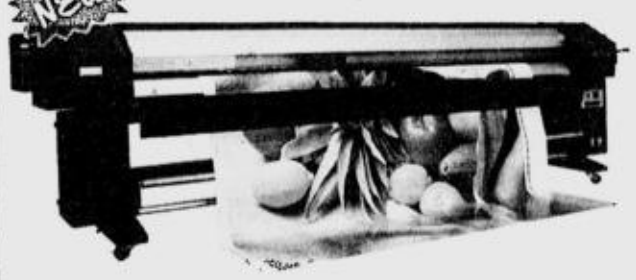

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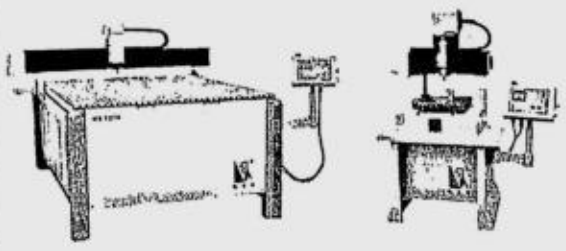

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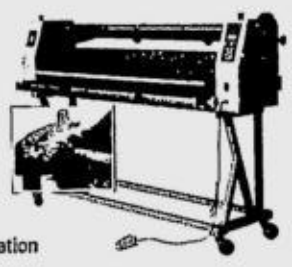

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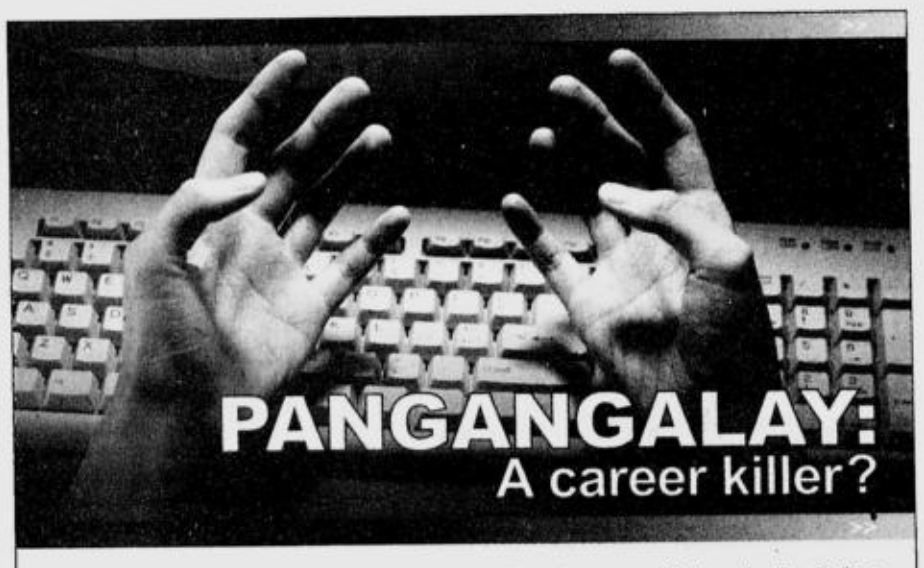

"Naalala ko pa noong una ko 'tong naramdaman," sabi ni Donna, isang 30 year-old secretary. "It was late, around eight o'clock, pero may tinatapos pa ako sa office. I'd been typing the whole day, then biglang nangalay ako. Grabe, naging stiff talaga ang mga kamay ko! 'Di ko matapos-tapos yung pag-type ko."

Ilang buwang tiniis ito ni Donna. Pabalik-balik ang matinding pangangalay at pamamanhid.

"Sinisita ako ng boss ko dahil ang bagal ko raw magtrabaho."

Minsan pa nga'y may kasama pang lower back pains ito. "Since I was always sitting down, my back would hurt. Hassle talaga. Minsan nagsasabay pa ang dalawa."

Hindi nagtagal, naapektuhan ang trabaho ni Donna. "Sinisita ako ng boss ko dahil ang bagal ko raw magtrabaho. Eh ang sakit talaga magencode. Kailangan talaga dahan-dahan."

Napadalas ang pag-OT ni Donna para habulin ang tumatambak niyang trabaho. Kaya naman lalong lumala ang mga problema niya sa katawan.

"Isang beses sumabit ako sa deadline. Galit na galit ang boss ko. I thought I was going to get fired."

Dahil dito, nagpatingin na si Donna sa doktor. Sinabi ng doktor na ang paulit-ulit na pagkilos at stress sa isang parte ng katawan ay pwedeng maging sanhi ng "nerve compression" o pag-ipit ng ugat. Kung may kasamang kakulangan ng B-complex sa diet, maaaring mangyari ang pangangalay o pamamanhid.

"Minsan kasi 'di ako nakakapag-almusal 'pag nagmamadaling pumasok," ayon kay Donna. "Tapos 'pag sobrang daming work, I have a quick lunch lang. Sabi ni Doc malamang kulang nga daw ako sa B-complex. So he prescribed B-Complex vitamins. Sabi niya it would help heal the damaged nerves na nagdulot ng pangangalay."

Kaya inumpisahan ni Donna mag-Pharex B Protected araw-araw. Nagulat siya sa epekto nito. 'Di nagtagal, nawala ang pangangalay ng mga kamay niya pati na rin ang sakit sa kanyang likod.

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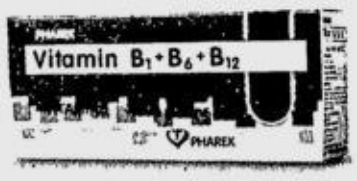

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Calatagan farmers protest land reclassification

By Marlon Alexander Luistro
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CALATAGAN, BATANGAS—FARMER-BENEficiaries in Barangays Baha and Talibayog here are questioning the move of the town council to revise the comprehensive land use plan (CLUP) of Calatagan, and reclassify lands in these villages from agricultural to industrial.

Ruperto Aleroza, advocacy officer of the Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda sa Calatagan, said in a phone interview that the land reclassification would not only destroy the rich natural resources in the area but also kill the livelihood of thousands of farmers and fishermen.

The municipal council approved the revised CLUP on June 29, a day before the term of local legislators ended.

Mayor Oliver Palacio defended the council's CLUP revision, saying the municipal government had a proper review of the documents before reclassifying lands, which were recommended by the Municipal Development Council.

The farmers alleged that the council revised the plan to accommodate Asturias Chemical Industries, which plans to build a cement plant complex and industrial park.

"No development can be put in place in the area since the land remains agricultural and agrarian in nature and there are pending cases for resolution in various judicial bodies," the Task Force Baha-Talibayog, which is composed of farmer-beneficiaries, told the INQUIRER in an e-mailed statement.

It added that the council pursued the land reclassification without securing clearance from the Department of Agrarian Reform and the Department of Agriculture to determine whether or not the land being reclassified ceases from agricultural productivity.

The task force said the council's move was inimical to the interest of 318 farmer-beneficiaries as it ignored the DAR's recognition of their rights when they were awarded 818 emancipation patent (EP) titles under Presidential Decree No. 27.

Asturias has a 25-year mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources covering 2,336.8 hectares of land in Barangays Baha, Talibayog, Punta and Hukay in Calatagan.

Aleroza feared that mining activities of the cement plant might cause landslides in the mountains and bring pollution to the immediate surroundings.

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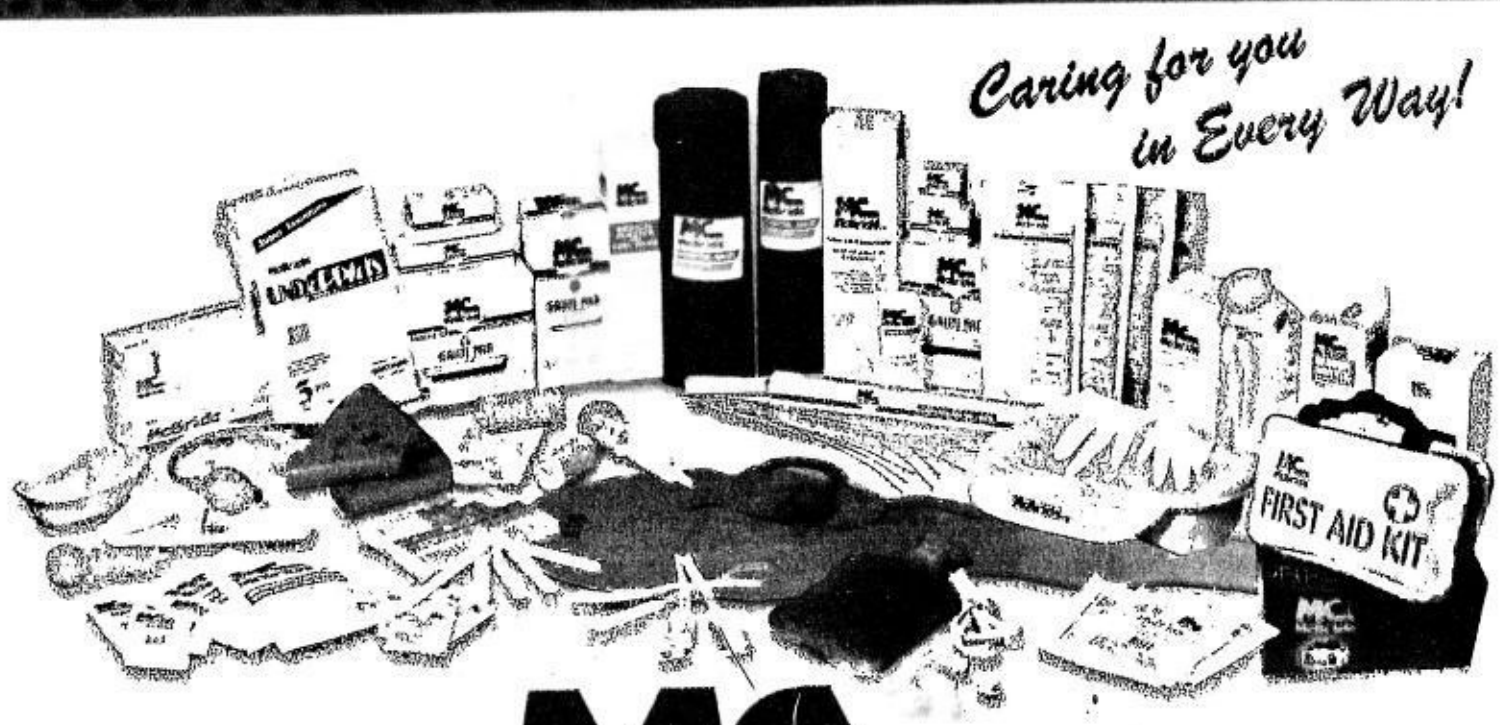

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UPLB tackles climate change in research, info drive

THE RAM pump installed in Negros Occidental won second prize in the 2007 Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy in a ceremony that was addressed by former US Vice President Al Gore. Auke Idzenga of the Alternative Indigenous Development Foundation Inc. was awarded £10,000 for developing a ram pump built to last at least 20 years and for bringing clean water to over 15,000 people in 68 hillside villages in the Philippines. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—LOW PUBLIC AWARENESS is a major barrier in addressing climate change, according to a professor of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, which is in the thick of integrating the university's research on the mitigation and public sector adaptation of the global phenomenon.

"Officials and even the public say that we are doing well and we have other concerns like poverty and economy. That is why it is more difficult to convince people that we have to take action now," said Dr. Rex Victor Cruz, professor at the UPLB College of Forestry.

Chancellor Luis Rey Velasco told the INQUIRER that their major concern was educating the public on the best ways to address the challenges to food security caused by the new climate scenarios of supertyphoons, flash floods and droughts—the manifestations of climate change.

But a nationwide information drive and policy-lobbying will be done only after determining areas that would be hit hard by climate change.

He said UPLB scientists and researchers had been studying climate change for almost a decade. What needs to be done is to integrate the available research and fill in the gaps.

"Climate change has a lot of implications and we want policies grounded on something solid," Velasco said of the program, which has an initial fund of P1 million.

Although climate change is a global phenomenon, the impact at the local level and the country's contribution to the global effort of mitigation should be given attention, said Dr. Vicky Espaldon, co-chair of the program.

"We are faced with the impending risks of climate variability, occurrence of extreme events, like floods, drought, and supertyphoons. One effect of these scenarios is the reduction of agricultural production. Problem on food supply will soon emerge," she said.

Espaldon added: "Our concern after the research is how we can draw the interest of the public."

Two of the important studies of UPLB were led by Cruz and Dr. Felino Lansigan, professor at the UPLB Institute of Statistics and member of the technical working group of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Watershed

Delving on local climate forecasts, the impact of climate change on the watershed, and the vulnerability and adaptation of communities in Southeast Asia, Cruz studied four sites in the Philippines—Pantabangan and Caranglan towns in Nueva Ecija, Maria Aurora and Alfonso Castañeda in Nueva Vizcaya.

Cruz said the study, which covered 2002 to 2005, showed that rainfall would intensify in wet areas and very hot temperature was "very likely" in dry areas.

"The frequency and intensity of extreme events like supertyphoons, and excessive rainfall will increase over time," he said.

The three successive typhoons, a case that is rare, were examples of the changing climate scenarios, he said.

"This would result in a reduction in rice production. Farmers in Central Luzon will adversely be affected," Cruz said.

Lowland agriculture, which depends on irrigation from the watershed, would be disrupted.

Cruz also explained that the poor were vulnerable because they did not have enough resources to relocate and shift to other livelihood.

Although the adverse effects of climate change seem to be threatening, the country cannot directly mitigate the phenomenon, he said.

"We are a small country. And mitigating climate change has to be a global effort, especially from the highly developed countries, which are the main contributors of greenhouse gases," he explained.

Adaptation

Lansigan focused on a crop simulation model that could determine the crop yield based on the given climate forecast.

The model used the values of temperature, solar radiation and precipitation generated from the climate forecast to predict crop yield.

Based on the prediction, a farmer can adjust his cropping calendar to a date he knows he will have a good harvest. *Niña Catherine Calleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Gov names caretakers for Shariff Kabunsuan

COTABATO CITY—GOV. ZALDY Ampatuan of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao has named caretaker officers for Shariff Kabunsuan province while the Commission on Elections is still resolving the election controversy there.

Camps of gubernatorial candidates Bimbo Sinsuat and Tocao Mastura have questioned the results of balloting in several areas, alleging fraud.

It was in Shariff Kabunsuan where members of an international poll monitoring group witnessed what they said were deliberate attempts to rig the elections. These included bomb attacks and ballot snatching.

Cynthia Guiani-Sayadi, ARMM solicitor general, said the caretaker officers were sworn into office on Monday and were expected to provide continuity in government services pending a decision by the Comelec of the poll controversy.

"The delayed proclamation of the winning governor, vice governor and 10 members of the provincial legislative board has, in essence, deprived residents of services from these provincial officials, Sayadi said.

The Ampatuan appointees include Sinsuat's niece, Noraya Sinsuat as OIC governor, his daughter Shennie as OIC vice governor, and 10 board members, mostly relatives and political allies of the Ampatuans.

But Sayadi denied any irregularity in the appointments, saying these were based on consensus.

She said Ampatuan had formed a selection committee to pick "qualified caretakers of the provincial government to avoid a political vacuum and hiatus."

Under ARMM laws, the governor is empowered to appoint officers in charge of a local government unit under his jurisdiction if elective officials have not yet been proclaimed or have become physically incapacitated, she explained.

Sayadi said Ampatuan also based his decision on President Macapagal-Arroyo's Administrative Order No. 180, which set the guidelines in selecting caretakers for LGUs that had no proclaimed winners yet due to electoral protests.

Sayadi clarified that all the appointed officials had limited powers and that they were not allowed to hire or to fire employees.

"Any time the Comelec proclaims the winners and are sworn-in, all the OIC appointees will have to vacate their posts to give way to the elected officials," Sayadi said. *Charlie Señase and Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

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ITALIAN envoy Margherita Boniver is welcomed by Fr. Gianni Sandalo on her arrival in Zamboanga City where she flew to find out the real score in the Philippine government's efforts to secure the release of kidnapped Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi.

JULIE S. ALIPALA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Gonzales tells envoy rescue will not be easy

From page A1

identified renegade members of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front as being behind the kidnapping. The MILF, which is in the final stages of peace talks with the government, has denied being involved and its members initially helped government troops search for Bossi.

Gonzales said the Abu Sayyaf was still around but its numbers had been significantly reduced.

The government had repeatedly declared that the Abu Sayyaf, a gang of self-styled Islamic extremists blamed for the country's worst terrorist attacks and a spate of kidnappings, was a spent force after some of its leaders had been killed.

On Saturday, the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (Pime) posted on its website photos of Bossi wearing the same clothes he had on when he was abducted on June 10 in Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay.

Boniver herself was not too optimistic that Bossi was still alive, noting that the pictures were undated.

Other pictures coming

Aside from the pictures of Bossi obtained by Pime, Gonzales said Malacañang had been getting information that "he was alive."

"There are other pictures coming," Gonzales said, without elaborating.

He said he was expecting to get within the week proof that Bossi was alive from a group claiming to have contacts with the Abu Sayyaf.

Gonzales said it would be good if the group would be able to get a picture of Bossi holding up a current issue of a newspaper.

The group is one of five that contacted him claiming to know Bossi's kidnappers, according to Gonzales.

He said the claims made by these groups, as well as independent and military intelligence reports, "all point" to the Abu Sayyaf as the group now holding Bossi.

Long drawn-out situation

Gonzales said he told Boniver the "bad news" in a meeting last week that it was the Abu Sayyaf that was holding Bossi.

He said that Boniver, a veteran of peace missions who was "very familiar" with the Abu Sayyaf, took the news well.

He said he told her that getting Bossi out was "going to be difficult" and that this would be a "long drawn-out" thing.

"Let's not have false expectations here. It's going to be difficult," Gonzales told the INQUIRER.

But he noted that the military had deployed its elite forces to find and rescue Bossi and that the prime consideration was to get the Italian priest out safely.

Janjalani followers

Asked who the Abu Sayyaf members holding Bossi were, Gonzales said all he knew was that they belonged to the original group under slain leader Khadaffy Janjalani but the members had new names.

He also said it was not clear where Bossi was being held by his abductors.

The military earlier said it had deployed forces to look for Bossi in Zamboanga Sibugay and the Lanao provinces. *With a report from AFP*

Sandiganbayan verdict won't spark insurrection

From page A1

15, when the prosecution and defense made the final summations of their arguments and evidence.

With the orderly process of the court taking its own pace, the case has already suffered a delay of at least six years. The plunder case was filed against Estrada soon after he was declared by the Supreme Court to have resigned the presidency following the collapse of his administration in the wake of the withdrawal of support by the armed forces and the swearing in of then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President on Jan. 20, 2001.

This followed the aborted impeachment trial of Estrada at the Senate acting as the impeachment tribunal.

Under the shadow of the imminent termination of the first ever criminal plunder case against a Philippine president in the post-independence period (from 1946), the newspaper ad marred the prospects of a peaceful conclusion of the case by sparking a new set of political controversies involving subsidiary issues.

Who placed the ad?

One of the issues was the identity of the one who placed the ad. The suspicion fell on Dante Ang, former publicist of Ms Arroyo. Ang denied that he was responsible for the placement although he knew the ad agency, Skoal, that placed it.

A Skoal staff confirmed placing the ad on behalf of the group "Friends of Democracy." Ang, however, said nothing offensive about the ad. He noted that it did not say whether Estrada was guilty or innocent. It just said let us respect the decision, according to Ang. "We know that any decision will inflame the passions of either camp," he said.

But Estrada did not see it that way. A day after the publication, he said: "It appears that my case will go (the way of conviction). They are already conditioning the minds of the people for such an event."

Dangerous situation

Malacañang poured oil on the controversy when the President's adviser on legal affairs, Gabriel Claudio, said Estrada was creating a "dangerous" situation by accusing Ms Arroyo of putting pressure on the Sandiganbayan to hand down a guilty verdict.

Claudio said speculations about the outcome of the plunder case could "unjustly affect the credibility" of the court's decision, whichever way it goes.

He noted that Estrada had claimed that Ms Arroyo had told Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde that she wanted Estrada convicted. However, Cardinal Vidal denied that Ms Arroyo had talked to him about the conviction of Estrada.

A spokesperson for Velarde said the El Shaddai leader had called for temporary liberty for Estrada whether on bail or recognizance pending the resolution of the case.

In a statement read by his son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, the former President said there were "very strong indications that despite its avowed stance of respecting the independence of the judiciary, Malacañang is already meddling in my plunder trial and making every effort to ensure my conviction."

Guingona's turnaround

The plunder case spawned further extrajudicial interventions when former Sen. Teofisto Guingona Jr. made a turnaround on Thursday, when he joined Estrada supporters in denouncing an alleged "Malacañang plot" to have Estrada convicted in the plunder case with the Sandiganbayan.

It was Guingona's "I Accuse" privilege speech in the Senate in October 2000 that sparked the Senate blue ribbon committee's investigation that led to the impeachment complaint in the House of Representatives against Estrada.

In his change of mind and of heart, Guingona called for the acquittal of Estrada in the Sandiganbayan. Guingona said Estrada "is a man who has found a new light and new life. In his own private self; I think, he has found the answer; he has new values and he is now a new man. The measure of judging a man is when he is down. He has been down for more than six years."

Speaking at a gathering of opposition leaders, Guingona gave strictly nonjudicial reasons for his intervention. "Let us give justice to Erap now that he is down. I hope that the court will acquit him. Let freedom be for Erap," he said.

Guingona's appeal took on a partisan hue because he has joined the opposition in its attempts to force the resignation of Ms Arroyo after he had broken off with her following his resignation as secretary of foreign affairs over the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

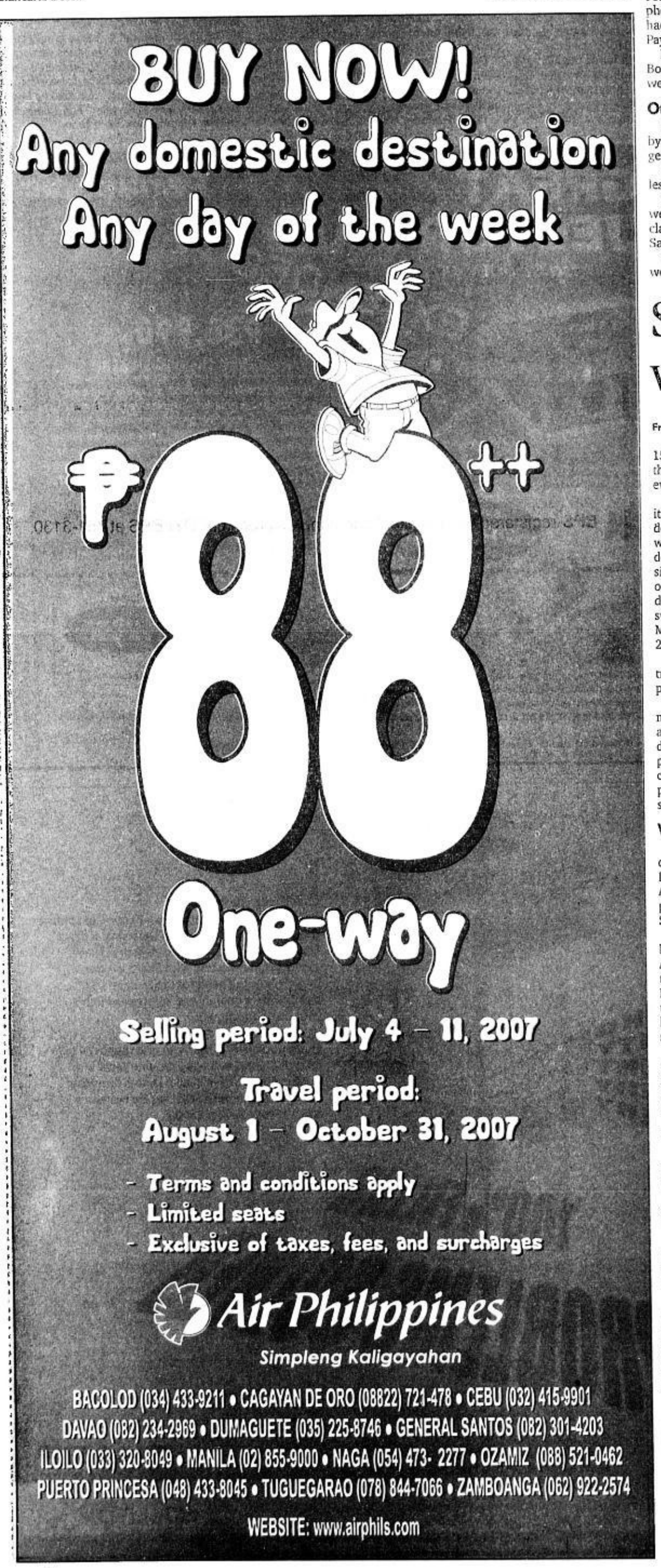
Fatigue over street actions

The threat of political disturbances over the Sandiganbayan's decision—whether acquittal or conviction—does not loom as explosive as it was when Estrada was arrested in April 2001, following the filing of the plunder complaint against him. The arrest provoked the storming of Malacañang by Estrada's supporters on May 1, 2001.

Security forces crushed the insurrection. A repetition of that scale of public disturbances is unlikely in the wake of the Sandiganbayan's decision.

The public is not in a high mood of outrage to go to the streets over any decision. The public is in an extended state of fatigue over street actions. The dominant mood appears to be that the public wants an end to the case.

The case has to be closed before the Arroyo administration ends.



Stars rock around the world in fight vs global warming

From page A1

the greeting of the chimpanzee," before mimicking the animals she has lived with and studied since 1960.

Musicians and celebrities at each show encouraged fans to take little steps, such as not leaving electrical devices plugged in when not in use and changing to low-energy light bulbs.

"You know, sometimes, walking away from situations or old habits is a hard thing to do. But that's because it's the right thing to do," Stacy "Fergie" Ferguson of the Black Eyed Peas told the London crowd.

Protecting environment

The Live Earth website, which streamed the various concerts live, included a section of tips for viewers.

Consumers should turn down their hot water heaters, wash clothes in cold water (apparently just as effective as warm water).

Buying locally produced food reduces "food miles"—the distance travelled by food—and reusing plastic water bottles or switching to recyclable glass also reduces waste and energy.

Viewers were also encouraged to use public transport, use bikes or try car pooling.

Listeners were informed that one ton of recycled paper saves enough energy to power a three-bedroom house for a year.

The concerts were backed by Gore, whose campaign to force global warming onto the international political stage inspired the event.

Madonna after dark

Organizers had said they hoped to reach two billion people with the Live Earth event.

Live Earth featured some 7,000 events in 129 countries, with an unusual performance by scientists-cum-rockers Nunatak in Antarctica, where temperatures have risen by nearly three degrees Celsius in the last 50 years.

At the London show, the stadium's nonessential lights were turned off before the closing act—Madonna—came onstage, leaving the venue dark except for the glow of exit lights and the flashes of cameras.

"Let's hope the concerts that are happening around the world are not just about entertainment, but about starting a revolution," said Madonna, who sang a song she wrote for Live Earth called "Hey You."

In New Jersey, rocker Melissa Etheridge pounded out her song "I Need to Wake Up," which was featured in Gore's documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," and won an Oscar for best song this year.

With hand raised as if taking an oath, Gore took the seven-point pledge he wants others to endorse, binding them to cut carbon emissions and to lobby governments and employers to do more to save the planet.

"Today, 2 billion of us have come together in over 130 countries on seven continents," Gore said to cheers. "Times like these demand action: Please sign the Live Earth pledge."

Draft Gore

Gore wants world leaders to sign a treaty by 2009 to cut global warming pollution by 90 percent in rich nations and more than half worldwide by 2050.

His Oscar-winning documentary and now the Live Earth campaign have only added to chatter that the man who lost the 2000 election to Bush might mount a fresh White House bid, despite his statements that he has no plans to do so.

A plane flew over the stadium towing a banner that read "DRAFTGORE.COM," apparently hoping to convince Gore to run.

US film star Leonardo DiCaprio, introducing Gore, said: "Our actions from this day forward will help determine just what sort of future we pass on to our children and to their children."

He added: "We cannot afford to fail those future generations, or to fail ourselves. What once seemed like science fiction is now an inconvenient, if undeniable, truth."

Part of the problem

Organizers promised that the huge shows were made green by using recycled goods, shuttling some concertgoers from distant parking lots in biodiesel buses and using biofuels for generators.

But critics have faulted the Live Earth concerts for lacking clear-cut, achievable goals, and for lauding rock stars whose jet-setting, high-consumption lifestyles can often send a different, less environmentally friendly message.

There has been widespread cynicism among music fans, campaigners and fellow rockers about the role of pop music, renowned for Learjets and limousines, to promote green living.

Critics pointed out that pollution caused by the concerts makes them part of the problem as well as the solution.

Let's begin

"Live Earth is a planet killer," read one poster in Washington.

A dozen Code Pink protesters chanted "No warming, no war, no more."

Gore took a train from Washington to New York, but some stars flew private jets to the venues and some corporate sponsors raised eyebrows.

Many of the musicians acknowledged that they weren't rock stars when it came to the environment, but stressed that it was important to start a discussion about climate change.

"If you want to peg me as not being entirely eco-friendly, you'll win," said John Mayer, speaking to reporters. "I also think it's very difficult to judge the success of a movement. ... You can't find out by 9 this evening how much awareness was raised. ... What you're really talking about is the placement of an idea at a rock show."

Backstage in New Jersey, singer KT Tunstall said that the first year sales of her debut CD generated 650 million tons of carbon emissions but that she had tried to partially offset that huge carbon footprint through the planting of 6,000 trees.

Boos for Bush

At other shows around the globe, an estimated 50,000 people grooved through a set by singer-guitarist Jack Johnson, while country stars Garth Brooks and Tricia Yearwood opened the Washington concert and Linkin Park entertained fans at a Tokyo concert.

In Rio de Janeiro, more than 400,000 people packed Copacabana Beach, waving Brazilian flags and dancing at the global music festival's only free concert, where performers included Lenny Kravitz and Pharrell Williams.

In Johannesburg, the concert ended with the artists and audience clapping out SOS in Morse Code—a reference to the evening's theme of answering the call to save the planet.

The concert in Shanghai, which was only attended by about 2,700 people, was seen as key in the drive to raise awareness about climate change, with China already or soon-to-become the biggest greenhouse gas emitter in the world.

The New Jersey show had political moments. Roger Waters, running through hits from his Pink Floyd days, displayed an image of US President George W. Bush aboard an aircraft carrier in 2003 under a "Mission Accomplished" banner to signal the end of major combat in Iraq, drawing loud boos from the crowd.

A mother's plea

Also in London, Spice Girls singer Geri Halliwell said that becoming a mother had changed her outlook.

"I must be honest, I hadn't thought very much about climate change at all, until I became a mother ... I really feel that we have a responsibility for our children to make a difference, and really take it seriously," said Halliwell.

At the London venue, all burger boxes were made of biodegradable reed and sugar-cane pulp, and all cooking oil from concession stands was to be converted into biodiesel fuel.

The concerts, many powered with renewable energy and featuring recyclable stages, were carried by 120 television networks around the world and streamed live on the Internet. *Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

Housing scams ...

From page A1

"There are thousands of people who are victims of scams in subdivisions," Gonzalez told reporters in a recent interview. "Many have to be protected from it and many don't understand it, don't even know it."

The justice secretary said he was thinking of seeking the help of President Macapagal-Arroyo by asking her to issue an executive order to define the parameters of the HLURB's powers and help resolve the problem.

Gonzalez said he was particularly concerned about OFWs losing the money for which they toiled for many years.

"Our main concern in this matter is that innocent Filipino workers, many of whom have labored abroad in the hope of purchasing a decent living area, end up losing their shirts to unscrupulous subdivision or condominium developers who entice buyers by doing initial work on real estate projects, put up props to convey a sense of urgency, then suddenly stop the construction without giving any reason, and nobody is around to answer your queries," he said in his June 29 letter to Fabul inviting the latter to a meeting.

Pre-selling

The usual excuse that the sellers give is that the Securities and Exchange Commission halted the housing project because the company went bankrupt or was under rehabilitation, according to Gonzalez.

He noted that the problems arose from the preselling of real estate, condo units or townhouses that remained unfinished even after several years.

He said the buyers were often not fairly refunded their money when the construction did not push through.

Asked if he thought there was a syndicate running the scheme, he said there could be. But he added that even reputable developers may have been involved in such situations.

Jurisdiction

He pointed out that there were questions of jurisdiction in many cases.

Many cases were referred to the justice department and estafa charges were filed, but it appeared that the final jurisdiction rests with the HLURB, according to Gonzalez.

Although some say the cases should be filed in the HLURB, the board does not have punitive powers and can only order the seller or developer to return the money, the justice secretary said.

"What will happen should the seller fail to do so?" he said.

"Please note that the poor buyers have nowhere to go to ventilate their complaints because of the jurisdiction issue. It is for this reason that we are inviting you to a conference so that we can resolve these problems, which clearly prejudice buyers," Gonzalez told Fabul in his letter.

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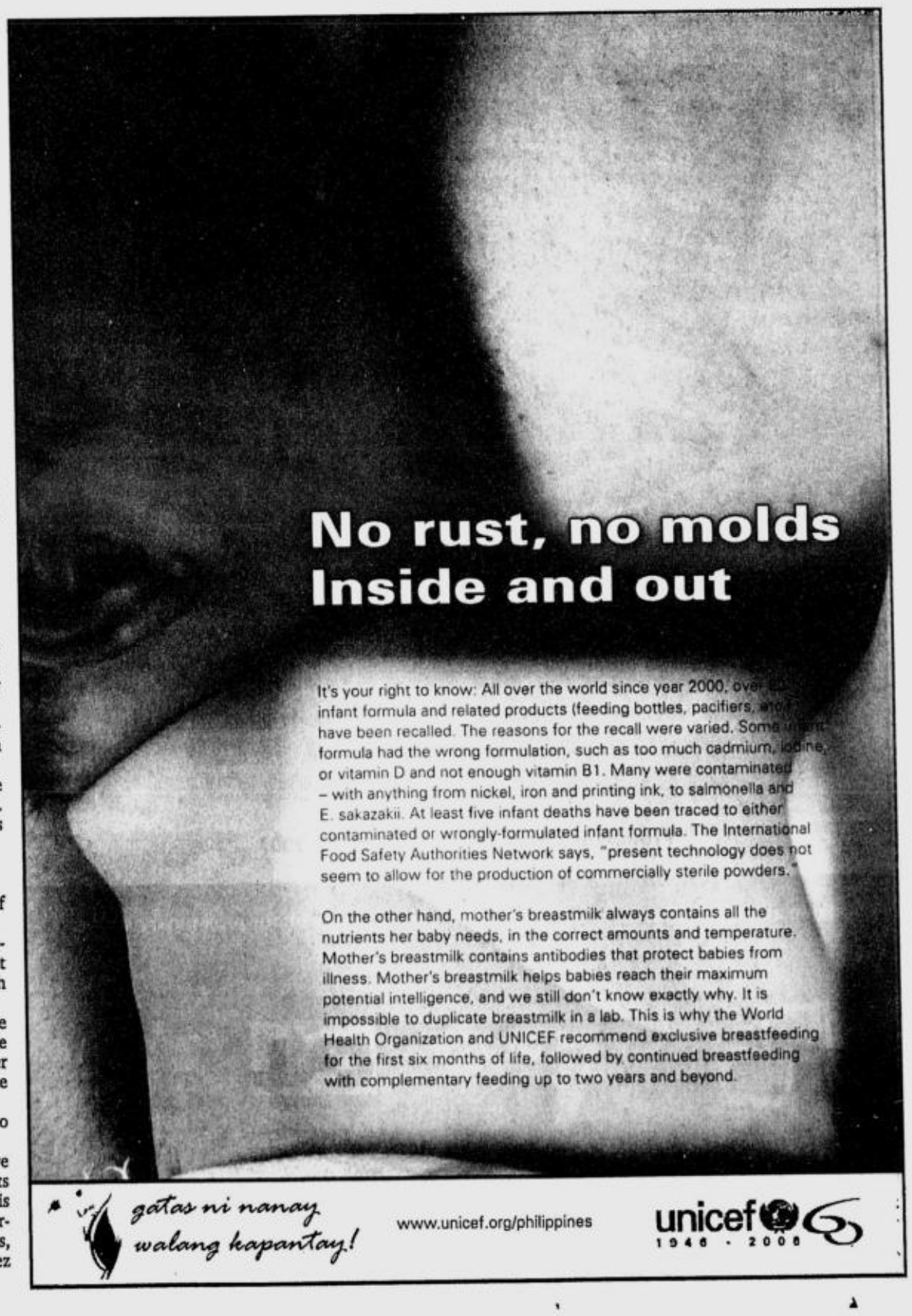
DTI-BPS has **apprehended several hardware stores and dealers** in Metro Manila, Laguna, Batangas, Quezon Province, Cebu, Davao, Gen. Santos City, and the Bicol Region that were found with substandard deformed steel bars. These steel bars do not conform to the requirements of the Philippine National Standards (PNS 49 and 211), wherein most of which are either unmarked with the required BPS-registered manufacturer's logo or marked with an unauthorized logo. **These seized substandard steel bars have been destroyed to ensure that these will not be sold back to the consumers.**

The DTI-BPS, under its Product Certification Scheme, only allows deformed steel bars that have passed the tests and inspection based on the safety requirements of the PNS to be sold in the market.

Manufacturers, importers, distributors, dealers, wholesalers and retailers found to be in possession and selling these steelbars are liable under Executive Order No. 913 and Republic Act 7394 or the Consumer Act of the Philippines with a fine of P300,000 per violation, without prejudice to the filing of criminal or civil actions against violators.

Should you have any information that would lead to the apprehension of violators, please call DTI Direct at 751-3330. For more information on the BPS-registered logos of steel bar manufacturers, call DTI-BPS at 751-3130.



More Sports stories on A27 to 30

Late SPORTS

Phone Pals tie series with Aces

GAME WEDNESDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
7 p.m.—Alaska vs Talk 'N Text

By Musong R. Castillo

THERE WERE NO MID-GAME COLLAPSES for Talk 'N Text last night.

The Phone Pals wielded control early, like in the series-opener, and hung tough in the face of numerous Alaska fight-backs to hammer out a 120-113 victory that knotted their PBA Fiesta Cup title series at 1-all at the Araneta Coliseum.

Mac Cardona scored 30 points, JJ Sullinger added 29 and Donbel Belano was the point guard of the night after finishing with 24 as the trio made sure that there would be no meltdowns for the Phone Pals.

The 5-foot-8 Belano had 16 points in 16 minutes in the first half, leading the Phone Pals to a 60-53 edge at the turn.

Cardona then scored 12 of his total in the third, including a number of clutch baskets that repelled Alaska rallies one after the other as the Phone Pals regained psychological control heading into Game 3 on Wednesday.

"I challenged my players after that (Game 1) disaster," coach Derrick Pumaren said. "I told them to show everyone what we are made of and we came out with a different attitude right from the start."

Talk 'N Text led by as many as 17 points in the second quarter on Friday before losing in a horrid manner, 113-86, after the Phone Pals just folded up at the first sign of adversity.

"To be fair, they came out and kicked our butt right from the start," Alaska coach Tim Cone said. "But the thing that upsets me the most is whether or not the referees are going to let the games be decided by the players.

"They made bad calls all the time."

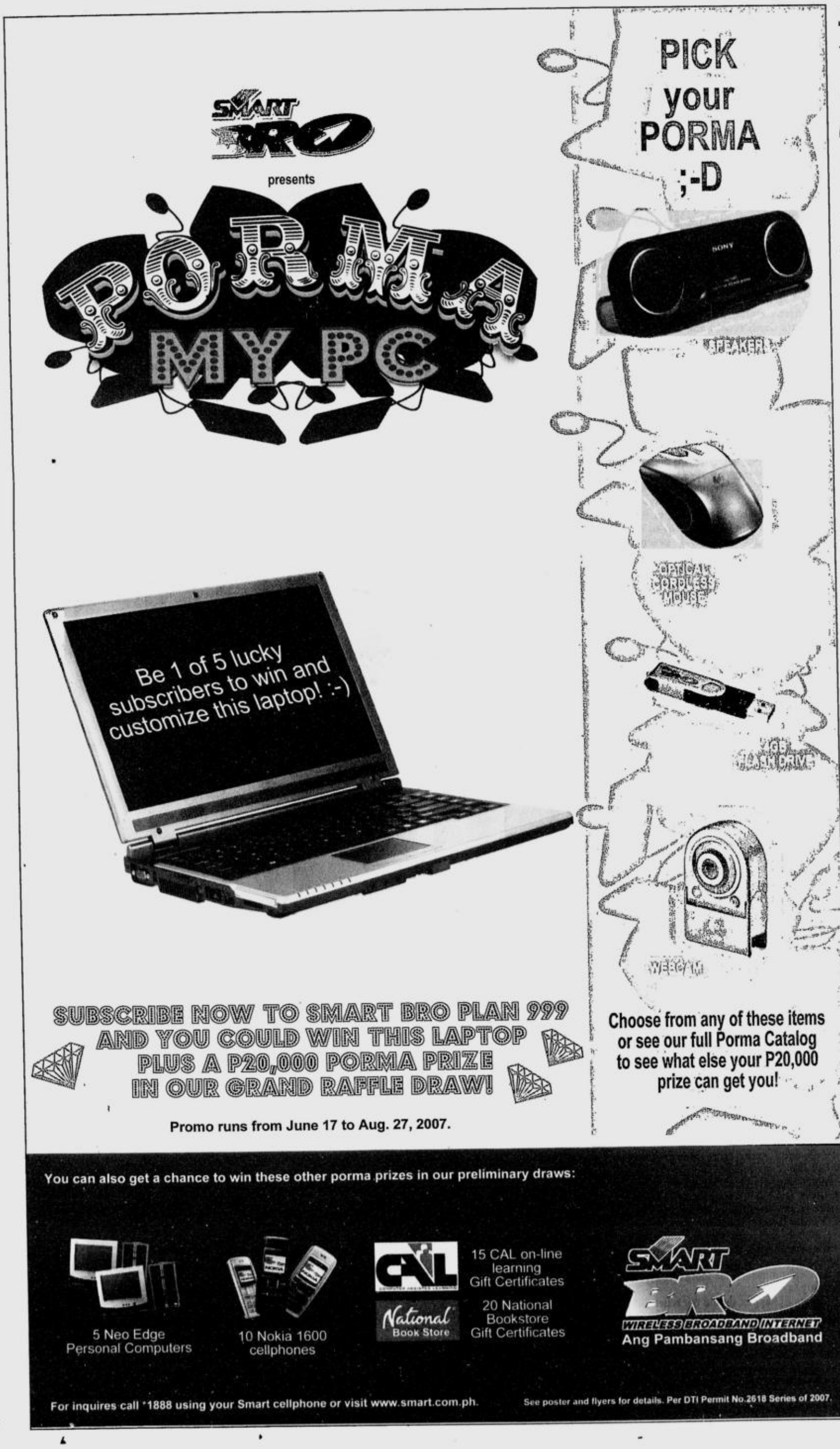
The scores:

TALK 'N TEXT 120—Cardona 30, Sullinger 29, Belano 24, Carey 14, De Ocampo 10, Allado 8, Pablo 3, Washington 2, Billones 0, Fran 0.

ALASKA 113—Ellis 40, Miller 16, Cortez 15, Laure 11, Thoss 8, Belasco 8, Ferriols 6, Singson 6, Bajar 2, Hugnatan 1, Juinio 0.

Quarters: 30-28, 60-53, 93-84, 120-113

TALK 'N TEXT guard Donbel Belano attacks the defense of Alaska playmaker Mike Cortez. AUGUST DELA CRUZ



JONES CUP

RP rips Taiwan for 4th victory

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

TAIPEI—WITH ITS CHIEF FIBA Asia rivals out of the way, the San Miguel-Pilipinas national quintet turned its mind to boosting its stock by clobbering host Taiwan, 82-64, Sunday in the 29th William Jones Cup International basketball tournament here.

The Nationals treated about 3,000 OFWs from the full-house crowd of 7,000 at the Hsinchuang gym in Taipei country with a razzle dazzle game they are noted for back home to clinch their fourth win in seven games.

The Filipinos led by 20 points twice, the first at 61-41, and refused to ease the pressure. They closed out their first win over the host here since the 1998 Centennial team that won the tournament with national coach Chot Reyes then serving as Tim Cone's assistant.

"We came out with a great defensive effort today," said Reyes, adding that it's a pleasant development for the Nationals since defense will decide RP's campaign in the Fiba Asia in Japan.

Reyes also acknowledged the support of the Filipino fans, noting they played virtually with a sixth man on the floor as their supporters neutralized the boisterous cheering of the home crowd.

Mark Caguioa and Jimmy Alapag again stood at the forefront of the RP offensive, shooting 20 and 15 points, respectively. But this time, they got a lot of support with Dondon Hontiveros, JJ Helterbrand and James Yap combining for 26.

Caguioa, emerging as the hottest player here, unloaded four straight baskets, two of them triples, as the Nationals took control by grabbing a 20-16 lead after the first quarter.

A 3-point play by Kerby Raymundo lifted RP to its first double digit advantage at 27-16 before Caguioa soloed it home after his own interception to boost the margin to 14 points at 37-23.

"Qatar is going to be a big test tomorrow," said Reyes later, referring to RP's next game at 3:30 p.m. Monday. RP's last game also at 3:30 p.m. is against Kazakhstan.

"Let's see what we can do against them," added Reyes, who lost to both teams in the Fiba Asia Champions Cup last May.

The Filipinos went into the game with the Taiwanese again on a learning mode after completing their main task of probing the strength of Jordan and Iran, their major worry at the start of the Fiba Asia championship late this month in Tokushima, Japan.

After dropping a close 74-70 decision to Jordan, the Nationals bounced back Friday to score an impressive 89-79 conquest of Iran, the 2006 Asian Games bronze medalist and winner of the import-laced Fiba Asia Champions Cup last May.

"When we first played Iran in the Champions Cup and then the national team during a three-quarter exhibition game, we thought there was no way we can beat them," said Reyes last Friday.

"This win showed that we have improved a lot now. And although we lost to Jordan, we know we can beat them in Japan," he added. "*Hindi na tayo takot sa kanila* (We no longer fear them)."

The scores:

SAN MIGUEL-RP 82—Caguioa 20, Alapag 15, Hontiveros 9, Helterbrand 9, Yap 8, Williams 6, Raymundo 5, De Ocampo 5, Ritualo 3, Norwood 0, Menk 0.

CHINESE TAIPEI 64—Lin CC 22, Wu 13, Lin YH 11, Chen 9, Lee HL 6, Chou 3, Lu 0, Lee CY 0, Hsu 0, Yue 0, Tseng 0.

Quarters: 20-16, 40-29, 61-43, 82-64

A plus METRO

Website: www.inquirer.net/metro

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Payatas residents cry out for justice

NO TRICKS
A barber shop on Matalino Street in Quezon City where only your locks of hair, not your strength, end up on the floor. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Margaux C. Ortiz

YEARS AFTER THE GARBAGE SLIDE IN PAYATAS, QUEZON CITY that killed over 100 residents in the area, families of the victims complained that they have yet to attain justice.

Tomorrow, on the seventh anniversary of the trash slide incident, residents will mark the event by saying prayers, lighting candles and by putting flowers at a marker which contains the names of those who died in the tragedy.

Initiated by members of Bangon Kalikasan Movement-Payatas Chapter led by Nita Panoy and the victims' relatives, the activity is also aimed at calling the attention of the Quezon City government to the impending eviction of some 100 families in the area who have been living there for 16 years or more.

According to Panoy, the eviction could take place any time next time. She added that no definite commitment has been given to the residents on where they would be relocated.

"We appeal to Mayor Sonny Belmonte not to go ahead with the eviction," she said.

"No justice has been given to the victims; their relatives have hardly been compensated and dumping continues," Panoy lamented. "Is the garbage more important than the people? We were here first."

The city government is reportedly planning to expand the dump.

A one-hectare portion of the 30-hectare, 50-foot high dump collapsed on July 10, 2000 after two typhoons hit Metro Manila. The trash slide buried hundreds of shanties and the people inside them.

Joey Papa, president of Bangon Kalikasan Movement, questioned the expansion plans since the dump should have been closed and rehabilitated in February 2006, "as mandated under Republic Act No. 9003 or The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act."

"It is rainy season again. Water collects fast inside the steep garbage mountain. The 2000 disaster was caused by a 'damming' effect after heavy rains, causing the mountain to burst and push down the trash," Papa added.

He stressed that the continued operation of Payatas and about 1,000 "open" and "controlled" dumps throughout the country is illegal.

"The law mandates that from the time it was passed in January 2001, all the barangays, with the support of the municipal and city governments, should have started implementing the ecological alternative of waste prevention, reduction, sorting and segregation, reuse, recycling and composting from the homes and establishments to the barangay Ecology Center or Materials Recovery Facility," Papa explained.

"The Ecology Center system, with the active participation of the people in each and every house and establishment, is the heart and soul of the law, but efforts among authorities to implement this have been half-hearted," Papa added.

He said that some authorities have been more actively promoting the so-called sanitary landfills or "glorified dumps."

"If the law is to be interpreted with a sincere intent to make it work, those implementing it should consider the provision for sanitary landfills a last resort," he emphasized.

Unfortunately, Papa bewailed, the authorities are saying that the next step to closing the dump is to set up another dump, though now referred to as a sanitary landfill and to collect the methane and toxic gases from these dumps and turn these into electricity.

The process, he stressed, is inefficient because much of the gases escape. "Besides, why dump precious resources which can be composted and recycled, and then try in vain, to collect dirty energy?" he said.

"We have power from the wind, the sun and the waters all around us. It is clean and renewable energy, not toxic, like that from Payatas," Papa added.

Museum to feature rich history of QC

By Margaux C. Ortiz

RESIDENTS OF QUEZON CITY would soon be able to learn more about its history with the construction of a museum that would also highlight the contribution to nation-building of the biggest city in Metro Manila.

Victoria Loanzon, special assistant secretary to Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., said the P65 million museum would reflect the lifestyles of city residents from the past to the present.

"We have been collecting data from the city's 142 barangays and looking into the history of each," Loanzon told the INQUIRER in an interview.

She said Quezon City has a very rich history.

"We have been doing research on the profiles of interesting residents, such as the oldest people who live in the city," the official said.

Loanzon also pointed to the many historical sites in Quezon City, many of which are unknown to most people.

"Pugad Lawin, located in Barangay Bahay Toro in Project 8, was where the Philippine Revolution started," she added.

The museum will also feature sites such as Krus na Ligas, the site of the centennial walk trail; General Geronimo Park in Barangay Bagong Silangan, where a Filipino general and his troops defeated the American soldiers stationed in the area; and Bantayog ng mga Bayani (Monument of Heroes), which was erected at the corner of Quezon Avenue and Edsa in memory of the heroes who fought against the Marcos dictatorship.

"We will also focus on ordinary people's lives by featuring the housing projects in Kamuning and in other parts of the city, which were intended for working families," Loanzon said.

According to her, the museum will also trace the origins of popular businesses and industries in Quezon City, such as the *lechon* business in La Loma and the *capiz*-making industry in Novaliches.

Loanzon said they have identified three potential sites in the city for the construction of the museum.

"We are hoping that national officials could also contribute to this project," the official said, adding that they are also planning to ask for assistance from some academic institutions such as the University of the Philippines and Ateneo de Manila University.

Makati City gov't boasts low school dropout rate

By DJ Yap

MORE AND MORE PUBLIC schoolchildren are dropping out everywhere in the country, but not in Makati City.

For the past three years, the dropout average in public schools in the financial capital has stood at 2.72 percent, compared to the national average of 10 to 12 percent, city officials said recently.

Based on Department of Education figures, national dropout rates increased by 10.6 percent among grade schools and by 15.8 percent among high schools.

The figure translates to as much as 2.4 million Filipino schoolchildren who dropped out last year, the majority of whom came from public schools. This has resulted in sharp decreases in enrollment, city officials said.

But it's a different story in Makati, according to Elena Ruiz, the city's schools division superintendent.

Enrollment in the city's public schools actually increased to 79,673 this school year from 77,135 last year, and 76,219 the year before, she said in a statement.

For the past three years, the average dropout rate in the city's public elementary schools has stood at 0.48 percent, and 4.96 percent in public high schools, Ruiz added.

According to the official, students, especially those from schools in neighboring cities, are "flocking" to Makati's 37 public elementary and high schools.

"All of them are hoping to be accommodated to be able to enjoy the benefits of practically free but quality education offered by the city government of Makati," she added.

Water, water everywhere

DIRTY water flows through Pitimini Street corner Judge Juan Luna daily. We do not know if it comes from clogged drainage or busted water pipes, but this has been a problem for some time now and could cause health problems like dengue to passersby or those who live near the area. Who is in charge?

APPLE DE LA CRUZ, 41, San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City

METRO Citizen's call 0918-8985566

No access for pedestrians

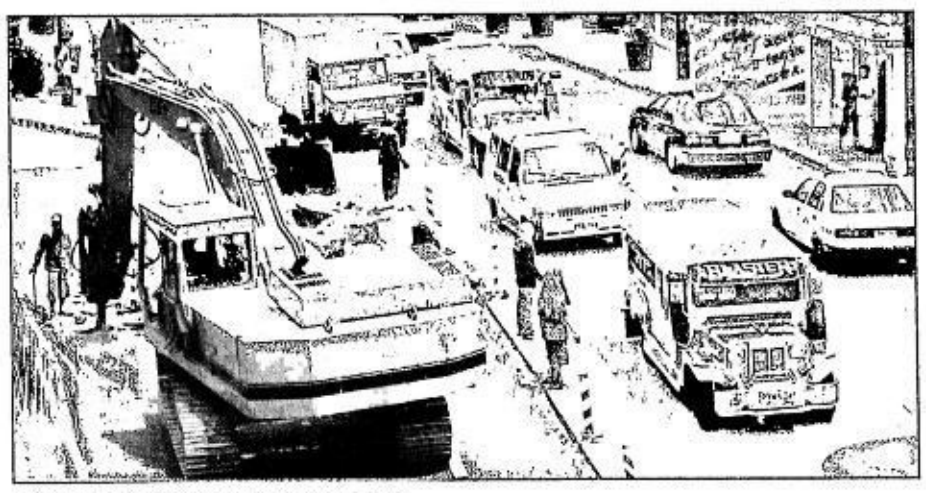
CALLING the attention of the barangay captain or authorities covering the SM Fairview area. Colorum (illegal) FX passenger cars make the pedestrian area near the SM annex their terminal in the afternoon, preventing mallgoers from crossing over to Robinsons Novaliches.

JASMINE ABELLA-BAUTISTA, 36, Camarin, Caloocan City

Sign placed on wrong side

IF YOU'RE on Osmeña Highway going toward Magallanes, you will notice that the "No Right Turn on Red Signal" sign toward Pablo Ocampo St. (formerly Vito Cruz) was placed on the wrong side, making it hard for motorists who want to make a right turn to notice the warning. This has become a favorite spot of policemen and traffic aides who run after unsuspecting motorists. The cops are there any time of the day or night, any day of the week.

B. LLAMZON, Manila



BOTTLENECK AT UNDERPASS
According to a text message from Mario, 46, of Makati City, "The J.P. Rizal-Guadalupe Pateros underpass is now a bottleneck area because they're fixing the road (they couldn't have picked a better time—at the start of school and the rainy season!) and because of a busted sewer pipe on Edsa. The water pouring down on the road is smelly sewer water. Cars and motorcycles slow down, stop and make dangerous cuts. It's mayhem out there!" RYAN LIM

School reopens damaged building

By Kristine L. Alave

CLASSES AT THE ANDRES BONIFACIO INTEgrated School (Abis) in Mandaluyong City are expected to return to normal tomorrow with the reopening of one of the school buildings.

Part of the concrete gutter on the four-story building collapsed Saturday last week, raining debris on the basketball court below. Fortunately, no one was hurt in the incident as there were no classes at that time, it being a Saturday.

An engineer from the Department of Public Works and Highways declared the structure safe and sound yesterday after a visit to the school campus.

Matthew del Monte, who checked the cleaning operation, said students can use the building today.

Jimmy Isidro, City Hall public information officer, said they have been notified by school officials that classes in the building would resume today.

"The building is ready for use. The whole building is sound and safe," Del Monte said.

He noted that workers of Tracsom Builders Inc., the Abis contractor, have cleaned up the affected area, took out the exposed, damaged slabs and will reconstruct the drainage in the coming weekends.

Del Monte said the massive gutter could have collapsed either because it was too heavy or because its connection to the main building was weakened.

Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos earlier ordered a probe and a quick repair of the building in Welfareville compound, Barangay Addition Hills, as parts of the concrete gutter were still dangling and could fall at any moment.

The closure of the school building affected some 2,000 students who were holding classes in its 15 classrooms, Abalos said. He recommended that school officials hold classes in two shifts to accommodate the displaced students.

Construction of the school was carried out by the public works department in 2001 for P100 million. Abalos said he would ask DPWH officials to make an assessment of the damage and of the building's structural integrity.

At least 6,400 elementary and high school students are enrolled in the school this year.

METROBRIEFS

Suspect negative for drugs

JAYSON Noriega, who confessed to killing his 3-year-old daughter last week, has tested negative for drugs, Eastern Police District director, Chief Supt. Lulzo Ticman, said yesterday. Ticman said that the results of a drug test showed no traces of drugs in Noriega's system. However, the police officer said that this does not mean that the 22-year-old suspect is not a drug dependent. He explained that since Noriega was taken to the police station on Thursday and the drug test was conducted on Friday, it is possible that the drugs could already have left his system when he was tested. Ticman added that the suspect could have been "psychologically distorted" when he kidnapped his daughter on June 28 inside a mall in Manila and killed her. It remains to be seen if his actions were fueled by illegal drugs or a psychological disorder, Ticman said. Noriega was charged with parricide last Friday.

Kristine L. Alave

Water cutoff in Manila

SOME areas in Manila will go dry or will have little water on Tuesday, July 10, from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m as Maynilad will replace a defective 300-mm gate valve at Pedro Gil corner Benitez Street. Areas that will have low pressure to no water are the portions of Ermita bounded by Padre Faura, Gen. Luna, Creek, President Quirino, Pedro Gil and Taft Avenue, as well as the portion of Malate bounded by Pedro Gil, Creek, Quirino and Adriatico. Affected customers are advised to call Maynilad Water Hotline 1626 or 4362000 or text Maynilad 2898.

Tribute to Lean Alejandro

THE FAMILY, friends and comrades of the late nationalist and prodemocracy leader Lean Alejandro will gather at the Peta Theater Center on Sunnyside Drive in New Manila, Quezon City, on July 10 for testimonial cocktails in honor of his 47th birth anniversary. Different personalities from multisectoral movements that struggled to end the Marcos dictatorship and restore democracy in the country will share their thoughts on Lean, his life and the ideals that he fought and died for. The event will kick off a series of activities that the Friends of Lean will be holding from this month until Sept. 19, which marks the 20th anniversary of his assassination.

DID YOU KNOW

OF THE NEARLY 33 million employed Filipinos in 2006, nearly 13 percent or around 4.2 million are in the National Capital Region. Of this number, around 2.3 million were men and 1.9 million were women. (Source: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics)

Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

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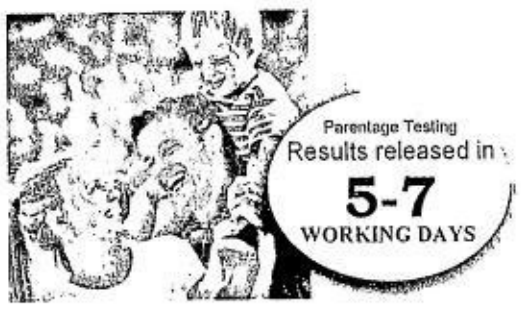
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RUBBER WOMEN
Contortionists perform at the Tihany Spectacular Circus in Mexico City on July 6. AP

Senior Pakistan military officer killed as Red Mosque siege enters sixth day

ISLAMABAD—ISLAMIC MILITANTS SUNday shot dead a senior Pakistani army officer during fierce clashes with troops on the sixth day of a siege at an Islamabad mosque as they defied calls to surrender.

The military said Col. Haroon Islam was leading an operation to help free some of the women and children allegedly being used as human shields by the militants inside the fortified Red Mosque complex when he was shot.

Maj. Gen. Waheed Arshad said another army officer was injured in the fighting with the Islamists led by firebrand cleric Abdul Rashid Ghazi.

"Rashid Ghazi and his militants were responsible for the murder of a senior army officer," Information Minister Mohammad Ali Durrani said. "The operation will continue and Ghazi has to surrender."

President Pervez Musharraf has warned the militants to surrender or be killed. The military ruler also told the hardline students late Saturday to immediately free all women and children.

"I request these people to come out and surrender and I say this here, that they will be killed if they do not surrender," Musharraf, wearing his army uniform, told reporters in his first public comment on the confrontation.

Pakistani forces have held back from raiding the now bullet-pocked mosque but there have been intense clashes around the perimeter.

Security forces blew up sections of the compound wall during the night and there were further intense exchanges of fire, a security official said early Sunday.

"Security forces dynamited the wall to allow people inside to come out if they want to," he said.

Those inside the compound who wished to leave risked being shot by hardline students if they attempted to climb the wall, which is 2.1 to 2.4 meters high, he said.

Militant leader Ghazi said Pakistani forces had killed 30 female and 40 male students in the siege. The women were buried at the site, he said.

The government says the total death toll is 20.

The cleric said he and his followers had enough rations, arms and ammunition inside the compound to "fight for another 25 to 30 days and we will do that, God willing."

Ghazi, 43, also signaled his defiance by saying that he was telephoned by a man who claimed to have shot at Musharraf's aircraft on Friday in revenge for the siege.

Security officials said earlier they were probing possible links between the mosque operation and the failed bid to shoot down the president's plane as it took off from Chaklala military airbase at Rawalpindi, near Islamabad.

Police have said they found two anti-aircraft guns and a machine gun on the roof of a house near the airbase after the attack.

Musharraf, a key US ally who grabbed power in a 1999 coup, has survived at least three other militant attempts to kill him.

Musharraf's tough stance has boosted his popularity after months of being embroiled in a crisis over his suspension of Pakistan's chief justice. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Britain facing 15-year fight vs terror, says security chief

LONDON—Britain faces a 15-year battle against Islamist extremism, the country's new security adviser said Sunday as police were given more time to question five suspects over three failed car bombs.

The country's former highest ranking naval officer, Admiral Sir Alan West, told the Sunday Telegraph that Britain was facing its greatest ever threat but a new emphasis was needed, with prevention of radicalization at its heart.

"This is not a quick thing. I believe it will take 10 to 15 years. But I think it can be done as long as we as a nation apply ourselves to it and it's done across the board," he was quoted as saying.

West was thrust into the limelight just a day into his new role after two car bombs were discovered in central London on June 29 and a flaming Jeep Cherokee slammed into Glasgow airport's main terminal the following day.

One of the suspects, 27-year-old Iraqi doctor Bilal Abdulla, appeared before a London court Saturday charged with conspiring to cause explosions. He was remanded in custody.

His appearance came as low-key ceremonies were held in London to mark the second anniversary of the 2005 suicide attacks, which killed 52 commuters and the four bombers and injured more than 700.

AFP

Nato air strike kills 108 civilians, says Afghan chief

KABUL, Afghanistan—Amid a continuing flurry of reports about civilian casualties in Afghanistan, the leader of a tribal council in Farah province on Saturday said 108 noncombatants were killed Friday in a Nato air strike.

The report was denied by a Nato spokesperson and could not immediately be confirmed from other sources.

"Nato soldiers, along with the Afghan National Army and people from the national police, came to Shewan Village and told us they needed to search three or four houses," the tribal chief, Hajji Khudai Rahm, said in a telephone interview. "As we talked, a firefight began and 20 houses were destroyed when the planes dropped bombs.

"We counted 108 bodies, including women and children. Fourteen local policemen were among the dead. Right now, things are calm, but people are digging through the rubble to find more bodies."

Also, Reuters reported that residents and officials in Kunar province said 36 civilians had been killed in recent air strikes, 11 of them Thursday during a bombardment, and 25 more Friday as they attended a funeral for the deceased.

AFP

Israel agrees to release 250 Palestinian prisoners

JERUSALEM—Israel's Cabinet agreed on Sunday to release 250 Palestinian prisoners in the latest of a series of attempts to strengthen Western-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas after Hamas' seizure of the Gaza Strip.

"I think this is a worthy gesture to make ... because we want to use any means that can reinforce moderate elements in the Palestinian Authority," Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told the Cabinet in broadcast remarks.

Olmert had pledged to free prisoners of Abbas' Fatah movement in a June 25 summit with the Palestinian leader as part of a Western campaign to bolster the new administration he named after sacking a unity government with Hamas Islamists.

Reuters

Indonesia terror attacks may be imminent, says Australia

SYDNEY—Australia warned on Sunday of possible imminent terrorist attacks in Indonesia, including on the resort island of Bali, and told its citizens to think twice before traveling there.

In an upgraded travel advisory, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said terrorists were actively planning attacks that could take place at any time.

"There have been recent arrests of high-level terrorist operatives in Indonesia, but we assess terrorists are continuing active planning of attacks," it said.

In 2002, bombs ripped through two nightclubs on Bali, a predominately Hindu island.

Members of the Southeast Asia militant group Jemaah Islamiyah were convicted of the blasts, which killed 202 people, including 88 Australian holidaymakers.

Two years later the Australian Embassy in Jakarta was bombed and in October 2005, 23 people, including four Australians, died in suicide attacks on Bali restaurants.

Reuters

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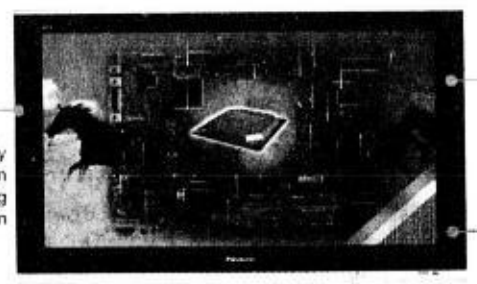

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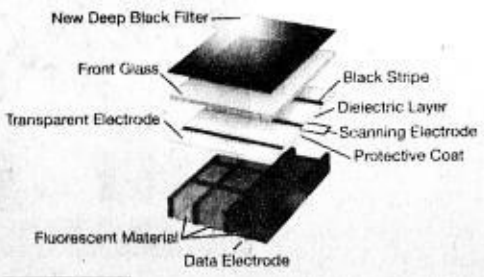

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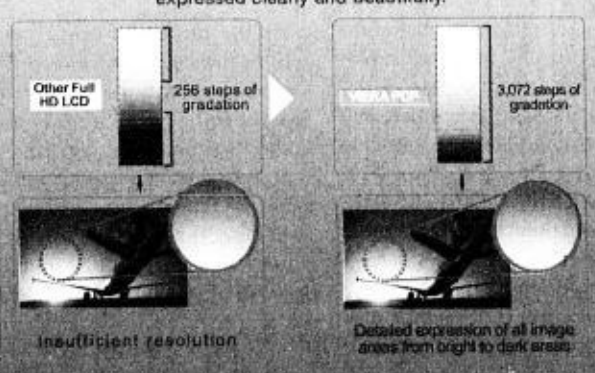

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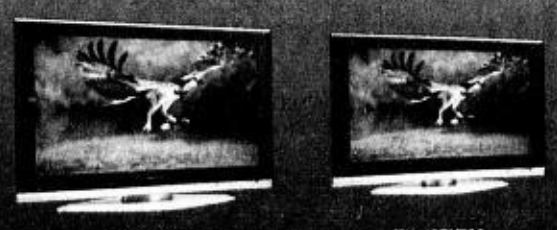

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Editor Luverne B. Gueco

The WORLD

Suicide truck bomber kills 105 in Iraqi village

TUZ KHURMATU, IRAQ—A SUICIDE TRUCK BOMBER RIPPED the heart out of a northern Iraqi village on Saturday, killing more than 105 people and demolishing dozens of homes and shops, police and medics said.

Ambulances and private cars ferried dozens of bloodied corpses and wounded civilians to clinics in the nearby town of Tuz Khurmatu and the provincial capital Kirkuk, where desperate relatives waited for news of the missing.

Tuz Khurmatu's police chief, Col. Mohammed Abbas-Amin, said that the final death toll from the attack was 150 people, while other senior officials gave estimates ranging between 105 and 125 dead, and 250 wounded.

An official in the operations room of the US military unit in the region, Task Force Lightning, said it had also received a report of 105 dead from its Iraqi police allies but had not been able to verify this independently.

Officials were stunned by the scale of the blast, which devastated the main market in Emerli, a small rural community of people from Iraq's Shiite Turkmen minority living in an area notorious for al-Qaida militants.

"I heard the cries of my child, then I heard nothing else until I woke in hospital," sobbed middle-aged housewife Sukaina Abdul Razak, whose clay brick home collapsed when the blast ripped through the village.

"I don't know the fate of my husband and my family. They were all in the kitchen, but I was in my room," she said as she was treated for head injuries in Kirkuk's overcrowded emergency room.

Shrapnel from the blast killed shoppers hundreds of meters from its epicenter, wounded grocer Hussein Abu Al-Hussein Akbar Aziz said in Kirkuk.

"We have never seen an attack like that in Emerli. The whole village was shrouded in smoke and dust," he said, grimacing from a leg injury. "I was serving a woman and her child in my shop. They were both killed."

Lt. Col. Saman Hamid, commander of the security coordination center in nearby Tuz Khurmatu, said: "105 Iraqis were killed and five are missing, we have registered their names. There are more than 250 wounded." This toll was confirmed by Dr. Wissam Abdullah, director of the main local hospital, who said the wounded had been taken to at least six emergency rooms up to 100 km away around the the region.

The chief local civilian administrator, Hamad Rasheed, said he had seen reports that up to 125 people could be confirmed dead after rescuers finished digging through the rubble of dozens of buildings.

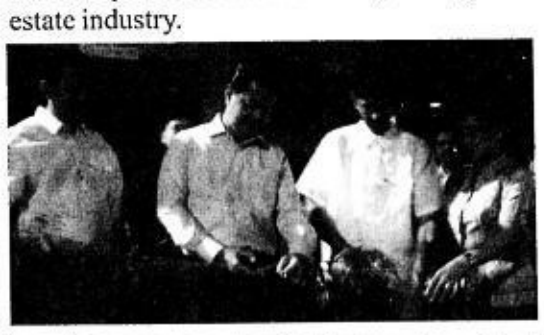
"The security reports that I have received from the scene confirm that 115 were killed, five are missing and around five more were collected as loose flesh. Some 40 homes, 20 shops and 10 vehicles were destroyed," Rasheed said.

"The corpses were under the debris of the collapsed buildings. Some were burnt and others were torn apart. This is a big disaster for the town, all of the casualties were civilians," he added. *AFP*

BUILDING GREEN 2007 IN MARKET! MARKET!

Sarah Jane O. Tan

A "green thumb" is not necessarily a requirement to support the Philippine Green Building Council. For those not in the real estate industry, Building Green may mean nothing more than a call to plant more trees: A common misinformation. As an "emerging council" which started only March of this year, the PhilGBC hopes that through events like the Building Green 2007 exhibit held at the Activity Center of Market! Market! last June 26-28, 2007, they increase public awareness and spark a green revolution in the real estate industry.



So, what is this so called green revolution in the real estate industry all about? It is the global trend of transforming design, construction, and management methods of the building industry into practices that are safe, healthy, and environmentally and socially responsible. As the non-stock, non-profit organization recognized by the World Green Council, the Philippine Green Building Council acts as the catalyst for building and construction industry leaders from both the public and private sector to share knowledge on eco-friendly building practices to ensure a sustainable environment. With sustainable development - the objective of Green Building - in mind at all times throughout the entire building process, PhilGBC advocates the use of enduring passive designs that work around the climate and other natural conditions to provide good air quality, conserve energy, reduce waste, and keep electricity bills at a minimum. Not only do such work and living environments promote safety, it also ensures comfort. By providing good air quality, enviro-friendly buildings make sense not only for the health of our planet and the health of the people but also the health of the bottom line. That's already tripling your return of investment!

Arch. Christopher dela Cruz, chairman of the Philippine Green Building Council, says that most of green building technologies are already available in the Philippines but are very expensive. However, he is positive that as demand increases - as a result of the awareness created by PhilGBC campaigns - costs of products and technology will be significantly reduced in the future.

At present, PhilGBC is forming an alliance with developers, contractors, suppliers, designers, civil society, academe, building professional associations, financial institutions, and individual practitioners to jointly develop a nationally accepted green building rating standard. The Green Building principles are also being integrated in housing projects of the government.

Buying a house? Choose "green." Contact the Philippine Green Building Council (PhilGBC) through Arch. Christopher dela Cruz at 0927.3122052 / 400.3041 or log on to http://philgbc.org

PhUV Unveiled At Market! Market!

By Sarah Jane O. Tan

MVPMAP Director Ferdinand Raquelsantos hoped that the event will be "an omen of good things to come," and it sure looked like it as Ms. Earth 2006 Cathy Untalan awarded an attendee who successfully answered a trivia question about the first Philippine-made vehicle (Volkwagen's Sakbayan distributed by Domingo Guevarra, 1969).

There was not even a slight indication of rain as Patis Tesoro's Filipiniana collection stepped up on platforms while upbeat Kundimans were played on the background. Yes; it was all sunny for the official debut of the all Pinoy vehicle simply called PhUV on June 12-13, 2007 at the Central Plaza of Market! Market! in Taguig City.

Nothing is simple about the PhUV prototype, though. It is the brain-and-muscles child of 130 local auto parts makers and assemblers collectively called MVPMAP or Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Philippines, an organization with a mission: to help 50,000 workers in the auto industry keep their jobs by reviving the progressively declining automotive industry of the Philippines.

Not a simple feat given the increased imports of completely built-up units and strong popularity of "branded" vehicles from Indonesia, Thailand, India, Malaysia, Korea, US, and Japan. With a price range of P350,000 to P400,000 the PhUV will try to capture and serve a niche market of entrepreneurs and OFWs who can afford a vehicle they can use for business on weekdays and for family on weekends.

Yet, there are still the imported but used vehicles sold through backdoors that the PhUV has to hurdle. It looks like the PhUV project has a long way to go before the finish line, but still, it's an important first step that can't be shrugged off towards a much needed "Buy Pinoy" marketing campaign for the automotive industry of the Philippines to stay alive and remain healthy to produce and rollout a final model of a truly Pinoy vehicle we can all be proud of.

A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. The PhUV is an attempt towards the realization of an all-Pinoy vehicle and a perfect symbol of hope and Pinoy resiliency on that Independence Day. With no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo unveiling it to the clicks and lights of press cameras under a bronze-filled sky at Market! Market! we also hope with Mr. Raquelsantos that good things will come for the PhUV Project.

Contact Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (MVPMAP) through Sophia Mirasol at 0917.5747229 / 637.1283 or log on to www.mvpmap.com

WHAT'S INSIDE

Williams bags 4th Wimbledon title /A30

SPORTS

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Warriors flog Tigers; Eagles win

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST WARRIORS GOT AS MUCH PRODUCTION from their bench as they did from their stars to put the University of Santo Tomas Tigers' title defense off to a bad start via a 73-60 trashing yesterday in the UAAP men's basketball tournament at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"I'm very happy that everybody played well, especially the five guys from the PBL," said coach Dindo Pumaren, who cited the solid performances of Mark Borboran, who paced UE with 13 points, Marcy Arellano, Elmer Espiritu, Kelvin Gregorio and Jorel Cañizares.

James Martinez added 12 markers, including back-to-back triples that pushed the Warriors ahead, 65-54, with 2:52 remaining.

Earlier, Ford Arao held his own in overtime as the Ateneo Blue Eagles survived a huge scare against the Adamson Falcons, 69-63.

Playing his finest performance in five years, Arao shot 10 of Ateneo's 16 points in the extra period as the Eagles recovered from poor shooting to climb out of an early double-digit hole.

GAMES THURSDAY
(*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
2 p.m.—Univ. of East vs National U (Srs)
4 p.m.—Univ. of Phils. vs Ateneo (Srs)

"Sometimes you have to win ugly," said Ateneo coach Norman Black.

UE and Ateneo joined opening-day winners La Salle and National University on top with 1-0 slates.

The Falcons shocked the favored Eagles with a 12-0 start that grew to 17-2, before Arao stepped up late in the game to lead all Ateneo scorers with 20 points and 15 boards.

"The most important thing is that we're able to recover," said Black. "In the beginning, we just couldn't make any shot. We were getting good looks at the basket, but it just wouldn't go down. On the other end, Adamson did just about everything."

Patrick Cabahug, who shot a game-high 28 markers, scored on a running jumper at the buzzer to

WARRIORS/ A28

Hamilton seizes British Grand Prix pole / A29

MICHAEL Dominguiano grapples with Mongolia's Batchulum Kohsbayar in the repechage of the 60 kg freestyle. ROMY HOMILLADA

Tubosa, D'guiano miss bronze medals

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINES HELD AN EMPTY bag last night but came out rich in experience at the close of the 2007 Asian Junior Wrestling Championships at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Robertson Tubosa and Michael Dominguiano were outclassed by superior foes in the repechage as the remaining hopes of the medal-starved RP contingent tumbled out of contention.

Tubosa succumbed to Tajikistan's Oleg Androsov, 5-0, in the bronze-medal round of the 84-kilogram freestyle for boys while Dominguiano got overpowered by Mongolia's Batchulum Kohsbayar by the same score in 60 kg category.

Practically overmatched, Tubosa and Dominguiano were both pinned to the mat by their stronger and more experienced foes right in the first round.

Their defeat left the Philippines with no medal to show after the three-day competition.

Nothing spectacular, however, was expected from Tubosa and Dominguiano.

When the 17-year-old Tubosa dropped his opening match against Iran's Ali Rajabzehdeborj, 4-0, there was little doubt that the Filipino grappler could get past the muscle-bound Androsov for the bronze.

Dominguiano, like Tubosa, clinched a spot in the repechage because their first-round foes made it to the finals of their respective divisions.

A victory for either Tubosa or Dominguiano could have reward the country its first medal in the championship following the dismal performances of Joan Lonosa and Noemi Tener in the women's freestyle Saturday night.

Lonosa and Tener were overwhelmed by their rivals in the repechage, leaving the Philippines empty-handed in women's freestyle.

South Korea's Kim Hyo Jin snagged the bronze in the 44 kg category from Lonosa while Tener was totally outclassed by Khuhshguu Baterdene of Mongolia in the 55 kg battle for third.

"We lost but it's a good thing we got the opportunity to learn more from our opponents," said Lonosa.

Mongolia compiled 65 points after bagging four golds, two silvers and a bronze to capture the overall plum in women's freestyle while Japan, which had a 3-2-0 haul, settled for second place with 62 points.

Chinese Taipei wound up third after seizing a lone gold and a silver.

Warriors flog Tigers . . .

From page A27

forge the extra period.

A seven-minute dry spell hit the Eagles again in the fourth period, allowing Cabahug to spearhead a 12-0 spurt to reverse a 48-39 Ateneo advantage to a 51-48 Adamson lead.

But Rabeh Al-Hussaini scored on a putback in the next possession, then drew a foul from Paul Gonzalgo for a three-point play that tied the game at 51 with 58.7 seconds left in the fourth period.

Before Cabahug's game-tying jumper, Ateneo seemed headed for a win as Chris Tiu nailed two free throws off a Leo Canuday foul with 12.9 ticks remaining.

The Falcons lost steam midway, scoring only a combined 15 points in the second and third quarters, following a 22-point output in first.

Offensive contributions from Jai Reyes, Chris Tiu and Jobe Nkemakolam pushed the Eagles within three 28-25, late in the first half.

The scores:

First Game

ATENEO 69—Arao 20, Reyes 11, Tiu 9, Nkemakolam 8, Salamat 6, Monfort 5, Al-Hussaini 5, Laterre 3, Baclao 2, Baldos 0, Barracoso 0.

ADAMSON 63—Cabahug 28, Hugnatan 14, Canuday 8, Yambot 5, Gonzalgo 4, Colina 2, Alvarez 2, Olalia 0, Canada 0, Margallo 0, Santos 0, Gorospe 0.

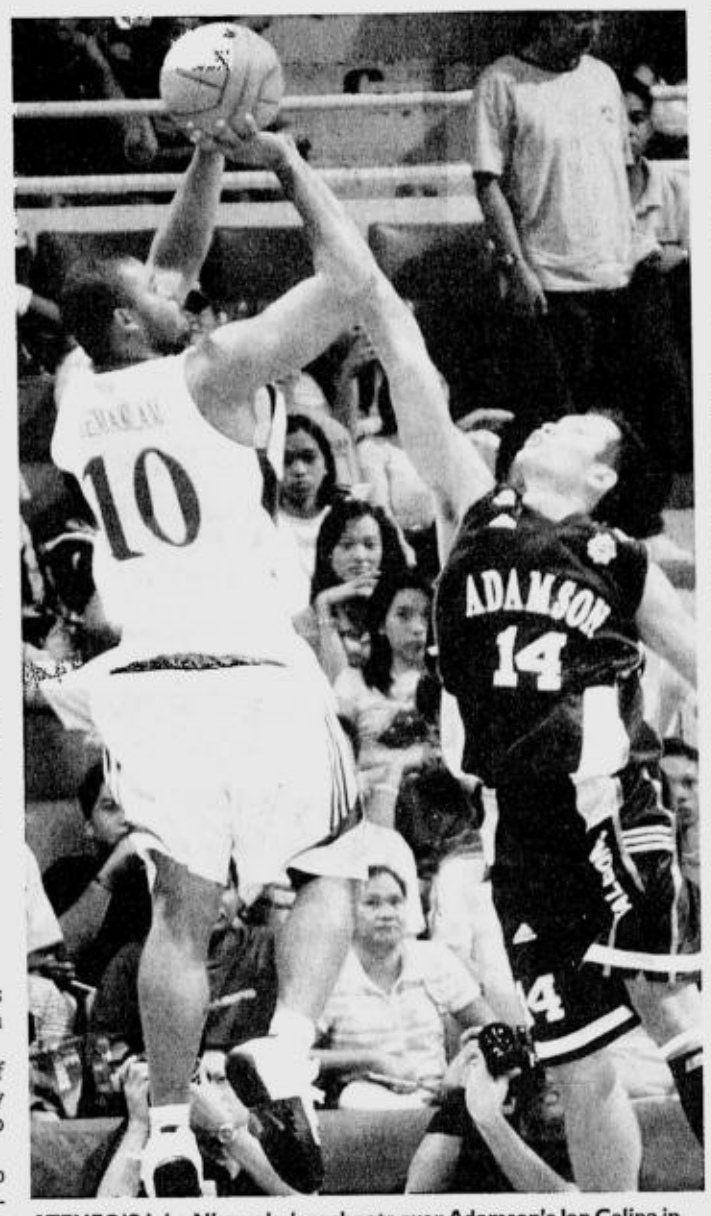
Quarters: 11-22, 25-30, 43-37, 53-53 (reg), 69-63 (OT)

Second Game

UE 73—Borboran 13, Martinez 12, Thiele 11, Arellano 8, Fampulme 7, Bandaying 5, Gregorio 5, Espiritu 5, Llagas 3, Lingganay 2, Cañizares 2, Lee 0.

UST 60—Cruz 16, Cuan 13, Taylor 9, Ababou 9 , Badua 5, Canlas 4, Mirza 2, Dizon 2, Scott 0, Espiritu 0, Cortez 0, Allera 0.

Quarters: 17-14, 33-27, 48-45, 73-60



ATENEO'S Jobe Nkemakolam shoots over Adamson's Jan Colina in yesterday's game at the Cuneta Astrodome. RYAN LIM

Marquez keys Tagaytay Spring rout of Pagadian

PAGADIAN CITY—Tagaytay Spring Cooking Oil frustrated the hometown crowd with an 83-71 rout of Pagadian Explorers and strengthened its bid for an outright semifinal slot in the 2007 Spring-NBC National Cup basketball tournament at the city gym here.

STANDINGS	W	L
Ozamiz	12	4
Tagaytay	11	4
Iligan	10	4
GenSan	9	6
Pagadian	8	8
Davao	6	10
Valencia	5	11
Quezon	5	11
Iloilo	2	11

Nino Marquez fired a team-high 18 points on five-of-nine shooting from the field, grabbed three rebounds and issued six assists to lead the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and league EVP Mayor Bambol Tolentino to their 11th win in 15 games.

Marquez's long-time buddy at PMI, Larry Rodriguez, added 15 points, five rebounds and a conference-high four blocks as Spring inched closer to Ozamiz (12-4).

Erian Daja was the only player in double figures for Mayor Sammy Co's Explorers who fell to 8-9. Daja tallied 23 points.

The scores:

TAGAYTAY 83—Marquez 18, Rodriguez 15, De Castro 12, Mallari 10, Victolero 9, Bolocon 8, Epondulan 8, Legaspi 4, Yambao 2, Reyes 0, Cuenca 0, Tajonera 0.

PAGADIAN 71—Daja 23, Mamaclay 8, Naron 8, Sinco 8, Huelar 6, Cortez 4, Asaytono 4, Saludsod 3, Quillo 2, Arquero 2, Omandam 2, Pamaran 1, Villaver 0, Ayok 0.

Quarters: 20-15, 41-34, 56-51, 83-71

Red Cubs gun for win No. 3

NCAA JUNIOR BASKETBALL
GAMES TODAY
(The Arena, San Juan)
12 noon—Letran vs San Beda (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—St. Benilde vs San Sebastian (Jrs)
3 p.m.—JRU vs Perpetual Help (Jrs)

SAN BEDA SEEKS ITS THIRD straight win while defending champion San Sebastian hopes to come back from a stinging loss when NCAA junior basketball resumes today at the Arena in San Juan.

The Red Cubs will take on the Letran Squires at 12 noon, while the Staglets square off with the St. Benilde-La Salle Green Hills Greenies at 1:30 p.m.

Host school Jose Rizal U battles winless Perpetual Help in the main game of the tripleheader at 3 p.m.

The Cubs are riding the crest of an impressive 115-74 victory against the Altalettes last week to remain the only unbeaten team.

However, the Squires are also coming from a morale-boosting 75-74 win over the Staglets last week.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Manila Zoo as PBA venue?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I AGREE WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO OPpose the plan of the Philippine Basketball Association to make the Manila Zoo the permanent site of the PBA.

As reader Tanya Ramiro of Antipolo City recounted recently in this paper's Opinion section: "The Manila Zoo was a wonderful part of my childhood. It was in a memorable field trip long ago, when I was still in grade school, that I first saw a tiger being fed a huge slab of meat.

"Now, after so many years, the Manila Zoo is still a favorite field-trip destination for young students and even families.

"I can't see how a megastructure to house the PBA can hope to compensate for the great educational significance of the Manila Zoo."

* * *

Besides, displacing the animals and cutting down century-old trees to advance the cause of basketball is both outrageous and appalling.

And, according to esteemed columnist Adrian Cristobal: "What many Manilans really want is a reconstructed, enhanced and not a banished zoo."

Said he: "It isn't as if the PBA's choice of real estate is limited. Its officers and members are humans with choices. The animals have no voice but their patrons are the citizens of the city, except that the PBA seems to have powerful patrons in City Hall."

Mayor Alfredo Lim has ambitious programs for the city of our affections, Cristobal said. "These should not be derailed by a concession which has provoked an unnecessary controversy."

* * *

WITH dance athletes from all over the country competing, the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines will stage its Midyear Ranking and Competitions-Alaxan FR Cup on Saturday at PhilSports Arena.

DSCP president Becky Garcia said battle-tested dancers and new faces will see action in both Latin and Standard disciplines.

Five International Dance Sport Federation (IDSF) licensed adjudicators from Europe and Asia will act as judges in the blue-ribbon tournament.

The event is organized by the members of the DSCPI board composed of lawyer Noel Laman, chair; Becky Garcia, president; lawyer Josefina de Vera-Saliva, secretary general; Gloria Alcala, treasurer and directors lawyer Andy Fornier, Marvie Cojuangco-Yulo, Ambassador Antonio Lagdameo, Edward Hayco, Ruby Co, Chona Mercado, Nanette Mendoza, Emma Nieto, Rebecca Jose, Crisaldo Rendon and Victoria Alix.

Tickets are now available at the Dance Sport Training Center, Philsports Complex, Meralco Ave. For inquiries, call Anna/Lorien at 635-0116.

* * *

In retrospect, 42-year-old Dilip Budhrani, commissioner of the Filipino-Indian Basketball League, said he "feels a profound sense of fulfillment in bringing back the FIBL, now on its sixth edition, because of the enthusiasm of the Fil-Indian community and the support of Indian Ambassador Rajeet Mitter.

* * *

Former Philippine Olympic Committee president Col. Julian Malonso, whose mental prowess never fails to amaze even though he is already past 80 years old, recalls the good old days in 1947 when La Salle won the first postwar NCAA senior basketball title, beating Mapua Tech, which boasted a superior lineup.

La Salle, coached by Chito Calvo, considered by many as the father of Philippine basketball, enjoyed the coaching advantage over Mapua Tech because Mapua coach Ignacio Sevilla had to step down for being a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Board of Control. Galiciano Calaguas stood as coach.

Among La Salle's key players were Valentin Eduque, Eddie Decena, Jun Iñigo, Eddie Sharuff, Jose Mendieta and Jesus Pimentel. On the other hand, Mapua banked on sweet-shooting Tacing Tanquintic, Rafael Roco, Oscar Tañedo and Ben Gaddi.

SPORTSWATCH

Garcia, Pascua show way in Shell active chess

THREE-TIME PALARO CHAMPION JAN EMMANUEL GARCIA AND ASEAN AGE-group double gold medalist Haridas Pascua swept their first four matches to lead their respective divisions in the Shell National Youth Active Chess-Northern Luzon leg at the Brickstone Mall in Tuguegarao City over the weekend. The 11-year-old Garcia, a former Shell kiddie champ, defeated Mary Grace Baston, Ian Baccay, Mark Mendoza and John Morazo to share the juniors division lead with Merry Mae Betito and Stephen Laceste. The seventh-ranked Laceste trounced Rafael Cacacho, Joel Sia, Sneaky Maguddayao and James Bulicatin while No. 8 Betito outwitted Tessie Calumag, Brian Laggui, Jerson Tumaliuan and Jean Tattao to crowd the top-seeded Ateneo stalwart at the top heading into the last three-rounds. The second-ranked Pascua, on the other hand, sustained his fine form following his remarkable stint in the Asean age-group championships in Thailand recently, thumping Mika Hernandez, Ezra Dumapal, Johnrich Cambri and Heirry Manaloto to head a big 13-player group pacing the kiddies (14-under) category. That includes top seed Mac Lagula, third ranked Loren Laceste and fourth seed Liza Agustin along with Jan Fronda, Mark Adviento, Tristan Zambale, Keneel Tuazon, Mark Asejo, Jon Bitamor, Jerald Calivoso, Legrand Laceste and Christian Geron.

'Hatawan' serves up 100 fights at Roligon today

MORE THAN 100 QUALITY FIGHTS WILL SPICE UP THE SEMIFINAL ROUND OF the "Hatawan Sa Tag-Ulan" 6-cock derby starting at 3 p.m. today at Roligon Mega Cockpit. A day-champion's prize of P600,000 awaits cockers who will score four straight wins in today's 4-cock semifinals. Fifty-seven participants tallied two wins each after three days of battle. The derby, hosted by popular promoter Rolly Ligon, culminates with the grand finals on Wednesday where P3.5 million in guaranteed prize is at stake. Participants who want to field new entries for Wednesday's championship must inform the Roligon office today, Ligon said.

Submission of fight birds' weights up at SJC

OFFICIAL ENTRIES WITH WEIGHT LIMITS OF 1.8 KILOGRAMS TO 2.4 KG MUST be submitted today at the San Juan Coliseum for the "Rambulan" 6-cock derby. First-day action features the 2-cock elimination round. Backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, this cockfighting spectacle (July 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, 21 and 24) is an offshoot of the "National Rambulan" last summer. The guaranteed prize of P3 million will be divided as follows: champion, P1.6 million; any five points, P400,000; any four points, P1 million; handler, P60,000 and gaffer, P40,000. Meanwhile, Benjie Lim (Kaibigan entry) topped the recent "PE San Pablo" 5-cock derby.

TOP DAVAO QUALIFIERS: Juniel Languido (left) and Estela Diaz

Languido gets ticket to ride; Diaz rules

DAVAO CITY—JUNIEL LANGUIDO ALMOST didn't make it to yesterday's Milo Marathon race. He didn't have the money to travel from Malaybalay, Bukidnon, to this city.

Thanks to a sibling who lent him money, his journey didn't go for naught as he ruled the 21-kilometer race which ended at Rizal Park here.

Estela Mamac-Diaz, the 2004 Milo Marathon queen who hails from this city, topped the distaff race of the event's seventh qualifying race.

Languido and Diaz thus made it to the 42K Milo Marathon national finals set Nov. 18 in Metro Manila along with the rest of the top three 21K finishers yesterday.

Languido, who topped the Iligan leg last year, paced himself in the first half before methodically pulling away to finish the race in one hour 11 minutes and 19 seconds.

"Kailangan kong manalo dito dahil wala na akong pang-supporta sa (I had to win because I no longer have money for my) vitamins *ko* ," said the 23-year-old Languido who pocketed P10,000 for the win. *"Nanghiram lang ako ng pamasahe sa kapatid ko para makatakbo dito."*

Languido's cousin, Crifrankreadel Indapan, ruled last week's Zamboanga City leg.

Placing second yesterday was Angelito Sibayan, who won in Butuan City last year, at 1:12:13, while settling for third place honors was Joselito Dugos (1:13:07).

"Malakas talaga si Languido, *hindi ko makaya* (Languido is really strong, I couldn't handle him)," Sibayan said.

Diaz won with a time of 1:30:31.

"My timing was a bit off because of the hot weather," said Diaz in Filipino. "At least, I won."

At second place was Diaz's niece April Rose Diaz (1:46:47) and coming in third was American Krystina McNeil (1:54:30).

Languido and Diaz also topped the Adidas King of the Road race in Davao City last February. They ran at the Adidas finals last week in Manila but only placed second to eventual champions Eduardo Buenavista of South Cotabato and Jho-An Banayag of Davao.

Sports Commissioner Leon Montemayor fired the starting gun that sent off 8,961 runners.

The top three finishers in the 5K run were Roy Leonard Leonor, Philip Ocon and Gilbert Maluyo in the men's and Russel Mabul, Aileen Villamera and Diana Ba in the women's.

The Milo Marathon will take a break on Sunday. It will resume races on July 22 for the 42K NCR elimination run in Manila.

Robles homerun powers Makati batters to victory

MEMBERS of the Makati Mariners celebrate after scoring an upset over the Negros Roosters and topping the pilot tournament of Baseball Philippines at the Rizal Memorial ballpark. RYAN LIM

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NATIONAL TEAM REJECT JONJON ROBLES knocked the decisive homerun in the sixth inning, propelling Makati to a 4-2 victory over favored Negros yesterday and to the championship of the Baseball Philippines pilot tournament at the Rizal Memorial ballpark.

With the score tied at 1-1, the two-time UAAP Most Valuable Player blasted RP team star Ernesto Binarao's first pitch to the right fence to key the win.

"I was very confident I would hit it," said the 20-year-old Robles in Filipino. "He (Binarao) gave me a curve ball that I anticipated and hit it timely."

"We hit well today," said Makati team manager Jeffrey Santiago. "Especially Jonjon, he pitched well and also hit well. *Nabuhayan kami dun sa* homerun *niya* (we got a boost from that homerun)."

It was a remarkable cap on the stint of Makati, which managed to barge into the semifinal only through the quotient system.

In the crossover phase, the Mariners stunned yet another fancied squad, Cebu, 5-4, to advance to the finals against the Roosters.

In the first game, Manila scored three runs to trip a deflated Cebu side, 5-3 and take third-place honors.

Robles had actually given Makati a headstart in the championship game, knocking down a single that scored James Cumlat.

But Binarao homered off Christopher Canlas in the fifth to knot the count.

The homerun by Robles, who failed to land a slot in the national squad during last year's try-out, pumped up his squad and triggered a sixth-inning deluge that virtually sank Negros.

Editho Justo capitalized on a third base error to add to Makati's lead and Jake Cumlat drove Antonio Culubong home to make it 4-1.

Hot Hamilton seizes British GP pole

SILVERSTONE, ENGLAND—LEWIS HAMILTON is in a good position to become the first Englishman since Damon Hill in 1994 to win the British Grand Prix on Sunday.

He took the pole position Saturday in his first Formula One race in his homeland, and later attributed his success to the support of the crowd at the Silverstone circuit.

"You definitely get a confidence boost and you feel the support," Hamilton said. "It is not just a certain group of people in the stands or certain places. Here it is the whole grandstand. It's been fantastic and I really do appreciate the support.

"To see the amount of support I get and see the flags waving. I get a big buzz from that and get a lot of energy."

HAMILTON REUTERS

Hamilton timed 1 minute, 19.997 seconds in his McLaren on the 5.1-km circuit as time ran out in the qualifying session to edge Kimi Raikkonen of Ferrari by 0.102 seconds.

Hamilton will now try to extend his perfect eight-for-eight streak of top-three finishes in his rookie F1 season. He leads the driver standings with 64 points, 14 ahead of Fernando Alonso and 17 in front of Felipe Massa with nine races remaining.

"It was an extremely tense qualifying session. It was all down to the last lap," Hamilton said. "I really had to pull it all out. I came to the first corner and I tried to do it quicker than ever and tried to maintain that pace."

Alonso, the two-time champion with Renault before moving to McLaren this season, was third in 1:20.147. He had led with times of 1:19.330 and 1:19.152 in the first two sessions that eliminate the six slowest cars.

Massa was fourth for Ferrari in 1:20.265. *AP*

STILL THE CHAMP
IBF heavyweight boxing champion Vladimir Klitschko, (right) jabs Lamon Brewster during their title fight in Cologne, Germany. Klitschko retained his title with technical knockout after the sixth round. AP

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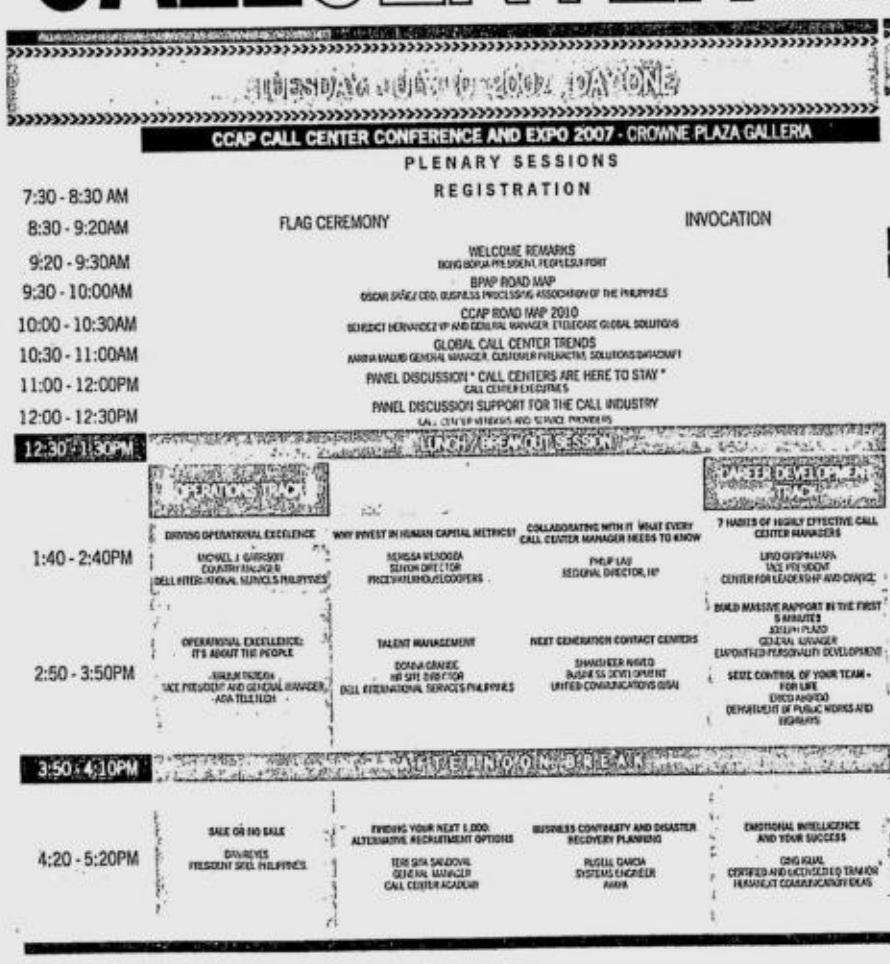

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SPORTS

VENUS Williams lets everybody know just how she feels as she displays the plate after defeating Marion Bartoli for the Wimbledon crown. AFP

Best of Venus

Williams bags 4th Wimbledon title; Roger sets sights on No. 5

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—VENUS WILLIAMS giggled as she clutched the championship trophy against her chest, threw back her head and whooped at the sky.

Winning Wimbledon never gets old.

Williams won tennis' most prestigious tournament for the fourth time Saturday, beating surprising finalist Marion Bartoli, 6-4, 6-1.

It was Williams' sixth Grand Slam title, and her first since winning Wimbledon in 2005. She was also the champion at the All England Club in 2000 and 2001.

At No. 31, Williams became the lowest-ranked women's winner in Wimbledon history. Plagued in recent years by injuries that sent her ranking sliding, she rediscovered her championship form this week on the surface that always seems to inspire her best efforts.

"It has been a long road back," Williams said during the trophy ceremony. "I brought it together here against some of the best players in the world, including Marion."

She lost 22 games in her final four matches, beating 2004 Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova on Wednesday, 2004 US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova on Thursday and French Open runner-up Ana Ivanovic on Friday.

Her father and coach, Richard, said that when his daughter was about 9, she declared she wanted to win Wimbledon more than anyone else.

"I think she can win three more," he said, "and I would be disappointed if she did not."

Williams is the fourth woman in the Open era to win four or more Wimbledon singles titles, joining Martina Navratilova (9), Steffi Graf (7) and Billie Jean King (4). King also won Wimbledon singles titles in 1966-67, before the Open era began in 1968.

On Sunday, Roger Federer will seek his fifth successive Wimbledon title against nemesis Rafael Nadal in a rematch of last year's final.

Williams' resurgence was reminiscent of the run to this year's Australian Open title by her sister Serena, who entered that tournament ranked 81st. Venus expressed gratitude to her sister—among others—during the trophy ceremony.

"Serena, she inspires me," Venus said. "The Australian Open champion—I wanted to be like her."

Serena, eliminated by top-ranked Justine Henin in the Wimbledon quarterfinals, watched from the stands as Venus turned in a workmanlike performance punctuated by occasional brilliance. *AP*

QUICKSTEP team rider Tom Boonen, one of the favorites in the sprint race, cycles past Big Ben at Westminster during the prologue stage of the 94th Tour de France. REUTERS

Tour de France starts under 'doping' cloud

LONDON—THE TOUR DE FRANCE GOT A needed dose of inspiration from its first start in Britain on Saturday, but fallout from doping was high in the mind of the Swiss rider who won the race's prologue.

World time trial champion Fabian Cancellara dominated the field of 189 riders through the heart of London, brightening moods at his Team CSC after their manager said on Thursday that he'd stay home this year.

CSC sporting director Bjarne Riis stunned the cycling world in May after admitting that he used the banned performance enhancer EPO to win the Tour in 1996, turning him instantly into persona non grata among race officials.

"What's really hard is when we saw that he's not with us on the Tour, but everybody's holding up," Cancellara said. "Today was a very important day for the team.

"There are a lot of problems in cycling, but I want to look to the future. And if you keep looking back at the past, of course, it's hard." *AP*

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7:30 - 8:30 AM REGISTRATION
8:30 - 9:20AM FLAG CEREMONY INVOCATION
9:20 - 9:30AM WELCOME REMARKS
9:30 - 10:00AM BPAP ROAD MAP
10:00 - 10:30AM CCAP ROAD MAP 2010
10:30 - 11:00AM GLOBAL CALL CENTER TRENDS
11:00 - 12:00PM PANEL DISCUSSION * CALL CENTERS ARE HERE TO STAY *
12:00 - 12:30PM PANEL DISCUSSION SUPPORT FOR THE CALL INDUSTRY
12:30 - 1:30PM LUNCH/BREAKOUT SESSION
OPERATIONS TRACK
1:40 - 2:40PM DRIVING OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE
WHY INVEST IN HUMAN CAPITAL METRICS?
COLLABORATING WITH IT: WHAT EVERY CALL CENTER MANAGER NEEDS TO KNOW
2:50 - 3:50PM OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE: IT'S ABOUT THE PEOPLE
TALENT MANAGEMENT
NEXT GENERATION CONTACT CENTERS
CAREER DEVELOPMENT TRACK
7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE CALL CENTER MANAGERS
BUILD MASSIVE SUPPORT IN THE FIRST 5 MINUTES
SELF CONTROL OF YOUR TEAM - FOR LIFE
3:50 - 4:10PM AFTERNOON BREAK
4:20 - 5:20PM SALE OR NO SALE
FINDING YOUR NEXT 1,000: ALTERNATIVE RECRUITMENT OPTIONS
BUSINESS CONTINUITY AND DISASTER RECOVERY PLANNING
EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND YOUR SUCCESS
WEDNESDAY JULY 11 2007 DAY TWO
CCAP CALL CENTER CONFERENCE AND EXPO 2007 - CROWNE PLAZA GALLERIA
PLENARY SESSIONS
8:00 - 9:00AM REGISTRATION
9:00 - 9:10AM FLAG CEREMONY INVOCATION
9:10 - 10:00AM KEYNOTE ADDRESS BRIDGING THE GAP FROM EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT
10:00 - 10:15AM COFFEE BREAK
10:25 - 11:25PM LINKING SIX SIGMA TO CALL CENTER MANAGEMENT
COMBATING CALL CENTER ATTRITION
INTEGRATING CHAT, E-MAIL, AND OTHER NON-VOICE TECHNOLOGIES
TEAM MEMBER SELECTION
11:35 - 12:35PM OUTSOURCING...WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT COMPLIANCE AND DATA PRIVACY
RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION: WHERE HAVE ALL THE ENGLISH SPEAKERS GONE?
SECURING YOUR INFORMATION IN A RISK TRIGGER COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT
7 HABITS OF FINANCIALLY SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE
12:35 - 2:10PM LUNCH
2:20 - 3:20PM MAKING THE NUMBERS WORK: BUILDING A PROFITABLE CALL CENTER BUSINESS
HIRING FOR RETENTION: THE PHILIPPINE CONTACT CENTER INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE
CUT TELECOM COSTS THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE OUTSOURCING
POSITIVE LEADERSHIP
3:20 - 4:20PM PUTTING METRICS INTO ACTION
ADDRESSING ATTRITION ISSUES THROUGH TALENT DEVELOPMENT
BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO WORKFORCE OPTIMIZATION
GETTING STARTED AS A NEW LEADER
4:20 - 4:40PM AFTERNOON BREAK
4:40 - 5:40PM GROWING A LEARNING ORGANIZATION
LIVING THE FUTURE OF HR TODAY
STRESS AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT
5:40 - 6:10PM SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER: SOLVING SECURITY INFORMATION OVERLOAD
SELF-DEFENSE FOR CALL CENTER PROFESSIONALS
6:10 - 6:40PM
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Chinese firm eyes $3-B cargo hub in RP

Execs arriving next week to take a look at Sangley Point

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A TEAM OF EXPERTS FROM Chinese shipping giant China Ocean Shipping Co. is expected to arrive next week to study the feasibility of a $3-billion cargo hub in Cavite, according to Ambassador Francis Chua.

Chua, who is special Philippine envoy on China trade and investments, said in an interview that while Cosco was considering various possible sites in Luzon, the first pick was the former air and naval base at Sangley Point.

"The investment amount covers the cost of land reclamation and the construction of a port as well as yards for shipbuilding and cargo handling," he said. "Cosco will foot the entire bill."

Chua added that the Cosco team could wrap up the feasibility study as fast as within a month "depending on the cooperativeness of concerned government agencies."

He said that Cosco was fully committed to have a cargo hub in the Philippines but that whether or not this would be in Sangley Point was still an open issue.

CHINESE/ B3

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Gov't to raise growth targets

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION WILL RAISE its gross domestic product (GDP) growth target for 2008 to a range of 6.1 to 6.8 percent, anticipating that major investment projects in the pipeline would boost the economy.

Under the original target set by the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), the government was only looking at a GDP growth of between 5.8 and 6.6 percent in 2008.

The DBCC, an interagency body that sets the government's economic and fiscal goals, said the new economic growth target for next year was up for approval in its next meeting this month.

According to a ranking official from the DBCC, the group decided to adopt a higher target because the economy was expected to grow between 6.1 and 6.7 percent this year.

It was Secretary Margarito Teves of the Department of Finance who first asked his colleagues in the DBCC as to what it would take to achieve a GDP growth next year that is higher than the projected economic expansion this year.

Romulo Neri, director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), later on agreed to support the proposal of adopting a higher target for 2008.

Neri said the government needed to pursue vital investment projects and promote tourism as some of the key measures to achieve a GDP growth of between 6.1 and 6.8 percent next year.

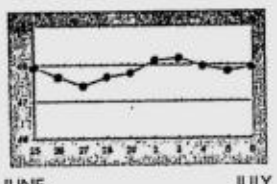
"It was agreed on the last meeting that some investment projects would already kick in and have an impact on growth next year," the DBCC source said.

The new GDP growth target for 2008 will also depend on other economic assumptions, including a 12-percent export growth and a similar 12-percent growth in imports. The imports growth target will be a revision from the previous 11 percent.

The inflation target for next year was kept at a range of 3 to 4 percent, while the 91-day treasury bill yield is still expected to settle at an average of between 4 and 5 percent.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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STOCK MARKET

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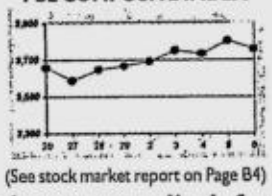


(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks seen to climb further

THE STOCK MARKET IS EXPECTED TO TEST new highs in the absence of negative developments on both the political and economic fronts.

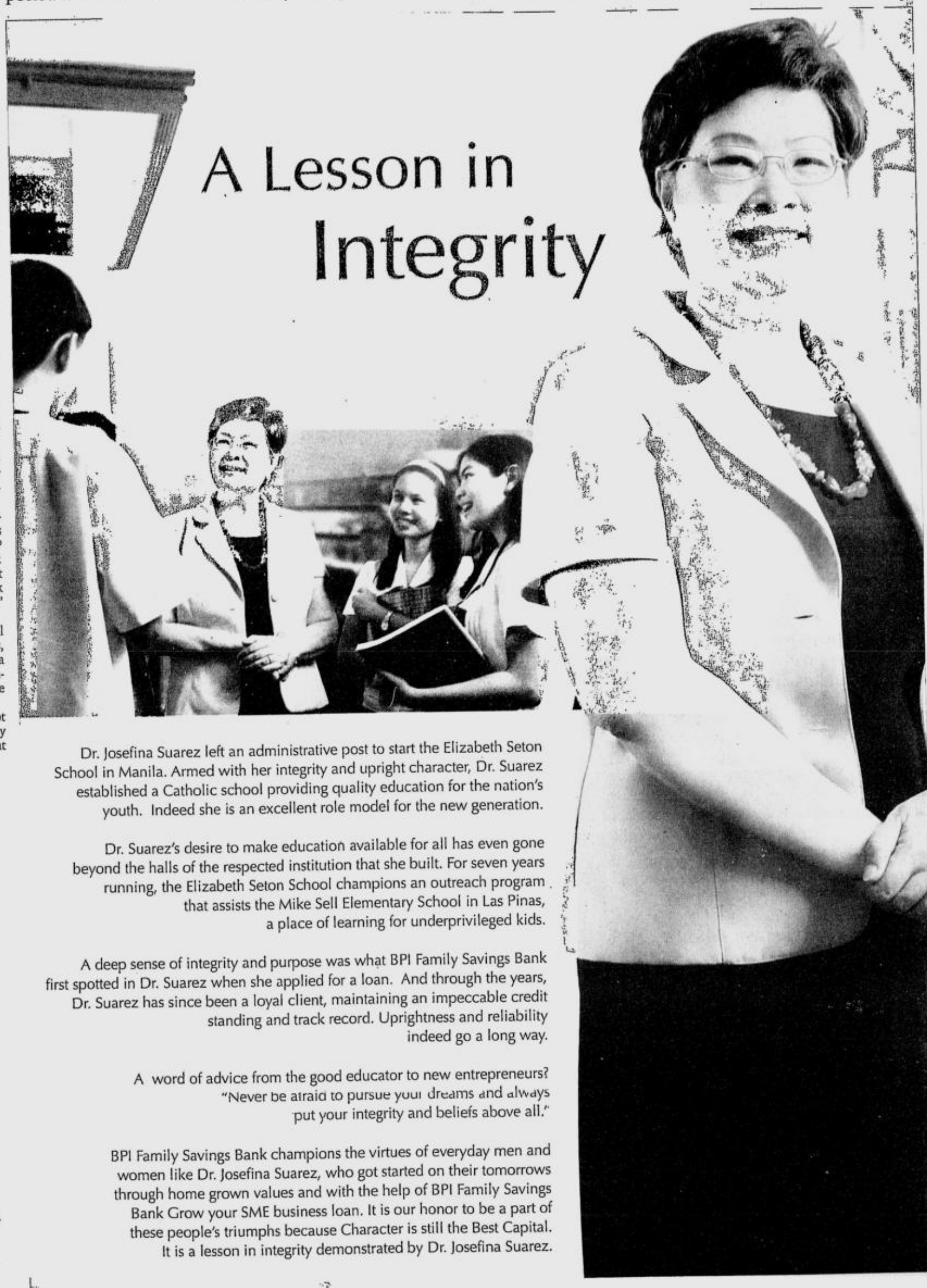
"We might see more upside. The tendency for the index is it corrects after touching new highs and then it will continue to move higher," Unicapital Securities head of research Ron Rodrigo said.

On Thursday, the stock index hit a new record high at 3,802.32, then dipped to to 3,758.84 last Friday as investors cashed in their gains.

"Stocks continue to show a lot of strength with very little technical correction. For as long as the market's momentum doesn't show any signs of slowing down, we may continue to see the PSEi test new record highs. It also helps that the latest inflation data released (last week) eased interest rate concerns on the market," AB Capital Securities said in a daily note.

The annual inflation slowed to 2.3 percent in June from 2.4 percent in the previous month, according to the National Statistics Office.

That was near the lower range of the central bank's forecast of 2.2 percent to 2.9 percent. Month-on-month, the consumer price index rose 0.6 percent following a 0.3-percent increase in May. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*



Dr. Josefina Suarez left an administrative post to start the Elizabeth Seton School in Manila. Armed with her integrity and upright character, Dr. Suarez established a Catholic school providing quality education for the nation's youth. Indeed she is an excellent role model for the new generation.

Dr. Suarez's desire to make education available for all has even gone beyond the halls of the respected institution that she built. For seven years running, the Elizabeth Seton School champions an outreach program that assists the Mike Sell Elementary School in Las Pinas, a place of learning for underprivileged kids.

A deep sense of integrity and purpose was what BPI Family Savings Bank first spotted in Dr. Suarez when she applied for a loan. And through the years, Dr. Suarez has since been a loyal client, maintaining an impeccable credit standing and track record. Uprightness and reliability indeed go a long way.

A word of advice from the good educator to new entrepreneurs? "Never be afraid to pursue your dreams and always put your integrity and beliefs above all."

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Jobs: a closer look

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

TWO WEEKS AGO, I EXAMINED THE LATest news on labor and employment, and welcomed some apparently positive developments on the jobs front. Both overall unemployment and underemployment rates were lower in April. Net job creation exceeded the number of new entrants to the labor force. And wage and salary-paying jobs account for a larger percentage of the total jobs in the economy compared to last year. The implication, it seems, is that employment has improved both in terms of quantity and quality.

Devil in details

Not all is bright and rosy, however. As always, the devil lies in the details. And it is worth looking into these details to understand the challenge that still faces all of us, and our economic managers in particular.

There are two particular aspects of the jobs picture that are worth noting here. One is the sectoral composition of the jobs, i.e., which industries and enterprises have been generating more jobs, and which ones have been losing them? The other is the nature of the jobs themselves, i.e., are the jobs that are lost or created regular wage or salary-paying jobs, self-employment, or unpaid family work?

I had mentioned, for example, that the manufacturing sector lost an alarming 105,000 jobs within the same period (April 2006 to April 2007). Still, the aggregate net job creation for the industrial sector came out positive because construction jobs (121,000) more than offset those lost manufacturing jobs. But this is not too much of a consolation. I can see at least two reasons why the loss on the manufacturing side is still probably a bigger loss, notwithstanding the numbers, than the offsetting gain on the construction side.

Regular vs. casual

First, the massive job loss in manufacturing reflects either drastic retrenchments or outright firm closures. In a recent business forum on the exchange rate that I spoke in, a lot of anecdotal evidence was cited of such closures happening among export-oriented firms due to the peso appreciation. But exporters are not the only ones suffering. Add to that the domestic-oriented manufacturers who are losing the battle against cheap imports, mostly Chinese, made even cheaper by the appreciating peso.

Note that the jobs lost here are probably (though not necessarily entirely) regular and otherwise more stable jobs, the kind that come with social security, PhilHealth, Pag-Ibig and other benefits including paid leave. On the other hand, the new construction jobs are probably very temporary jobs, good only for as long as specific construction projects last. They may be wage-paying jobs, but they are probably casual jobs that don't come with the usual package of benefits mentioned above.

Nonrecurring

The second reason we still have a problem is that the surge in new construction jobs recorded in the April survey will not last. Obviously, a lot of government construction projects were undertaken in anticipation of the recent May elections. Public construction in the last quarter of 2006 grew by a hefty 39.6 percent over the previous year; in the first quarter of 2007, it grew 16.9 percent. In stark contrast, private construction activity has been languishing with mostly negative growth (i.e., actual declines) in the past six quarters.

Those construction jobs recorded in April will be gone once the projects are completed—and many of them are probably gone even by now, with the elections over. The problem is, recent shortfalls in government revenues will severely limit the government's ability to sustain such brisk government construction activity for the remainder of the year. And judging from recent experience, private construction is not about to pick up the slack.

Declining quality?

What the above discussions show is that the quality of jobs we had in April may not be reflected enough by the significant reduction in the underemployment rate (from 25.4 percent last year to 18.9 percent this year), and the rise in proportion of wage and salary workers (from 50.6 to 51.1 percent). Yes, there may be more wage-paying jobs, but because of the switch from manufacturing to construction, there may

NO FREE/ B5

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Day 1 (Aug. 7, 2007 1:30pm-6pm)

1
LAUNCHING NEW PRODUCT CATEGORIES
Aurora Mangubat-Suarez, Publisher, Summit Media & YMMA awardee for Business Development

2
LAUNCHING VALUE SERVICE FROM A NEWER PLAYER
Monette Aldovino-De Joya, Advisory Account Manager, Innove Communications & YMMA awardee for Account Management

3
LAUNCHING NEW FLANKER PRODUCTS TO PROTECT TURF
Carla Chavez, Senior Brand Manager, Alaska Milk & YMMA awardee for Brand Management

4 & 5
LAUNCHING SERVICE IN A NEW MARKET
Candice Alabanza-Iyog, Vice President for Marketing and Product, Cebu Pacific Air & YMMA awardee for Service Marketing

Jane Basas, Senior Marketing Manager, Smart Communications & YMMA awardee for International Marketing

6
LAUNCHING MARKETING INITIATIVES: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER
Dondi Gomez, Managing Director: Skin, Deodorants & Homecare, Unilever & YMMA awardee for Marketing Management

ymma
The Young Market Masters Awards (YMMA) is an advocacy project organized annually by Mansmith and Fielders, Inc. The awards seeks to recognize young marketers 35 years old and below who have done outstanding brand-building and innovation.

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From page B1

"The feasibility study would settle that question," Chua said. "Cosco is willing to look for other sites in Luzon."

In an earlier interview, Chua said other areas being considered were Batangas and Subic. This time, he said Cosco has also received proposals for possible sites in the Visayas and Mindanao.

"(However), Cosco (and my office) has decided to take a reductive or focused approach to ensure that the project would be realized in the shortest time possible," he said. "At this point, we want Sangley or any other site in Luzon."

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PELAC Global Bond Fund	1.1815	1.1785
PELAC Peso Fixed Income Fund	0.9893	0.9899
PELAC Peso Equity Fund	1.4077	1.3597
PELAC Balanced Fund	1.0074	0.9979

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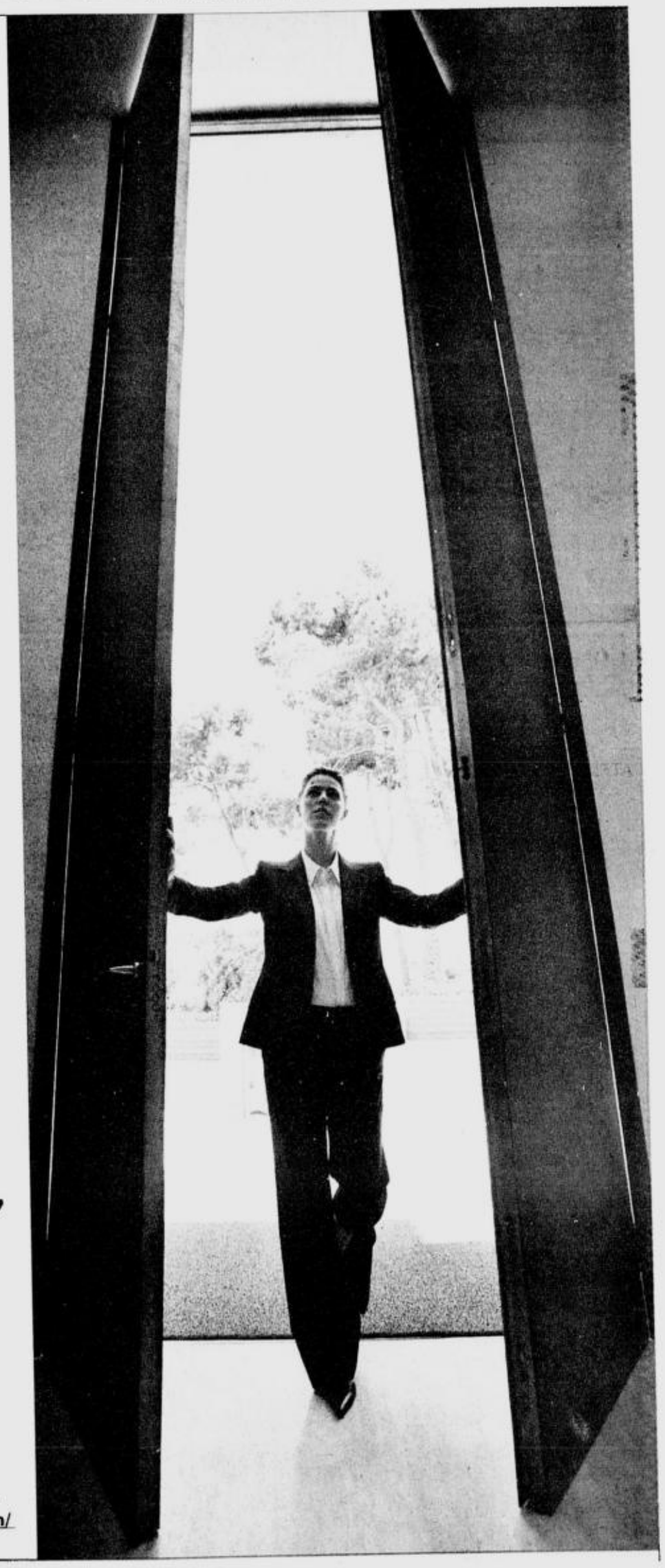

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GMA 7 spending P1.89B to boost reach, revenues

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

GMA NETWORK INC. IS SPENDING P1.89 billion until 2008 for the completion of new studios and the comprehensive rollout of a project that aims to boost its regional signal.

The capital expenditure program consists of P938 million in 2007 and P950 in 2008.

In its prospectus filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange, GMA 7 said part of the funding would come from the proceeds of a share and Philippine Deposit Receipts offering this month.

GMA 7 added that its capital expenditure program would include the completion of two new television studios, and the build-up of its regional infrastructure, production and studio facilities to allow it to increase its broadcast capabilities outside of mega-Manila.

The company is looking to boost its appeal to advertisers by improving on the clarity of its signal and the reach of its stations in cities outside of the National Capital Region.

To capture untapped audience, increase ratings and enhance local advertiser interest, the company has allocated P195 million for its regional expansion project this year. It involves the upgrade of studio facilities in Cebu, Davao and Iloilo, including new studios in Dagupan and Naga.

Early this year, GMA 7 completed the upgrade of a transmitter installation in Mt. Sto. Tomas, Benguet. The company also plans to upgrade and strengthen major transmitter installations such as those in Batangas, Naga, Mt. Kitanglad in Bukidnon and General Santos.

GMA 7 also plans to construct two new relay stations, one in Mt. Amuyao in the Mountain Province and the other in Cagayan de Oro City.

The company also plans to expand its international audience by entering into arrangements with foreign carriers and networks to broadcast its programs abroad. GMA 7 plans to expand its global exposure and capitalize on the large pool of overseas Filipino workers through GMA Pinoy TV, its first international channel, and through a second international channel to be launched this year.

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BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	570,000	550,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000	270,000
CANLUBANG	470,000	430,000
CANYON WOODS	90,000	-
CAPITOL HILLS	40,000	-
CEBU COUNTRY CLUB	-	2,000,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	120,000	90,000
CLUB FILIPINO	90,000	80,000
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EAGLERIDGE "C"	350,000	320,000
FOREST HILLS "A"	90,000	-
LUISITA GOLF "A"	350,000	270,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	200,000	180,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	220,000	-
MANILA GOLF (CORP)	-	20,000,000
MANILA GOLF (IND)	-	18,000,000
MANILA POLO	Please Call	3,750,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	290,000	270,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	680,000	-
MANILA YACHT CLUB	200,000	-
MIMOSA (IND)	230,000	-
MT. MALARAYAT GOLD "A"	160,000	-
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	180,000	160,000
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ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	350,000	300,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	170,000	145,000
ROCKWELL CLUB	300,000	230,000
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STA. ELENA "B"	2,150,000	-
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TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	650,000	620,000
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Canyon Woods	90,000	-
Cebu Country Club	Pls. Call	2,000,000
Club Filipino	90,000	Pls. Call
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	160,000/Pls. Call*	200,000*
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call*	130,000*
Fairways & Bluewater	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	90,000	150,000*
Luisita Golf B	Pls. Call	350,000
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	18,000,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	18,000,000
Manila Polo	Pls. Call	3,750,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	390,000/Pls. Call*	250,000
Makati Sports Club A/B*	200,000/230,000*	180,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	380,000	150,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	160,000	-
Mimosa C1/C2*/C3**	220,000/580,000**	180,000/280,000*
Mt. Malarayat A	180,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/250,000*/350,000**	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Quezon City Sports Club	170,000	130,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	170,000*/250,000**	130,000*/150,000**
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	230,000
Royale Tagaytay CC	65,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/170,000*	100,000*
Splendido Taal	200,000	Pls. Call
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	Pls. Call	1,600,000
The Palms Country Club	380,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay Country Club	320,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	700,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	670,000	650,000
The Country Club	2,200,000	-
Tower Club A/B*	150,000/160,000*	-
Valley Golf	230,000	200,000
Valle Verde Ind.	100,000	-
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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 8, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.2	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	12.25	12.25	11.75	11.75	40,000
73	30.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	73	73	71.5	72	499,800
73.5	47.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	73	73	71.5	72	2,735,200
935	630	China Banking Corp.	915	915	915	915	1,090
20.25	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank, Inc	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	270,000
75.5	34	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	73	73	71.5	72	2,365,100
65	32.5	Philippine National Bank	63	64	63	63	104,900
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	63	64.5	63	64.5	2,400
39.57	14.13	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	35.5	35.5	35	35	1,137,500
90	44	Security Bank Corp.	87.5	88	87.5	88	48,300
66	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	62.5	62.5	62	62	209,500
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.72	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.8	5	4.8	5	245,000
1.5	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.22	116,000
14.25	1.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	12.25	13	12.25	13	1,769,300
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.24	1.32	1.22	1.24	4,403,000
42	28	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	900
1,710.00	1,500.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,685.00	1,690.00	1,685.00	1,690.00	2,220
5	4.05	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.35	4.4	4.3	4.3	2,332,000
3.1	0.99	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	86,000
1,005.00	210	The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc	825	825	820	820	2,710
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,170.00	2,170.00	2,170.00	2,170.00	10
1.94	1.2	iVantage Corp	1.84	1.84	1.82	1.82	1,215,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
68	41.5	First Gen Corp.	67	67	66.5	66.5	648,900
92	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	91	92	90.5	90.5	1,201,200
13.25	7.4	Manila Water Co. Inc.	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.75	4,065,200
116	14.5	Manila Electric Co. "A"	114	114	109	111	342,230
118	22.25	Manila Electric Co. "B"	115	117	111	111	1,524,500
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.5	5.7	13,933,000
6	3.7	Petron Corp.	6	6	5.8	5.9	7,566,000
2.5	1.6	Salcon Power Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	17,000
1.9	0.91	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.5	1.58	1.5	1.58	2,940,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	100,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.24	2.24	756,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26.5	26.5	26	26	5,000
61	30.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	56	56	55	55	818,100
7.3	4.6	Pancake House Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	3,000
1.9	0.77	RFM Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.64	1.68	243,000
4.05	2.2	Roxas Holdings	2.95	3	2.9	2.9	74,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. "A"	76	76.5	75	75.5	559,600
88	69.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	86.5	86.5	83.5	84	165,500
0.61	0.2	Swift Foods Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	20,000
4.3	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.25	4.25	75,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.5	1,129,800
0.55	0.19	Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.45	0.49	1,480,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.43	EEI Corp	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	815,000
4.6	1.06	Fortune Cement Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	100,000
9.2	4.3	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8	8	7.9	8	3,106,000
7	1.2	Republic Cement Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	165,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.7	1.72	1,525,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.5	3,956,000
1.34	0.8	Interphil Laboratories Inc. "A"	1.34	1.34	1	1.3	203,000
1.4	0.61	Interphil Laboratories Inc. "B"	1.36	1.36	1.08	1.3	420,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	645,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.44	0.0625	Picop Resources Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	4,020,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.74	A. Soriano Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	287,000
0.17	0.023	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.13	52,860,000
1.28	0.18	APC Group Inc.	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.14	18,136,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.2	2.5	2.16	2.5	9,180,000
3.3	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.2	2.6	2.2	2.6	12,646,000
0.018	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	25,200,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	9.1	9.1	8.8	8.9	19,029,000
0.021	0.007	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	104,700,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.9	6.1	5.9	6	20,409,000
1.38	0.47	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	1.08	1.12	1.06	1.08	351,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.6	2.65	2.5	2.5	2,931,000
590	308.33	Ayala Corp.	585	585	565	565	247,900
14	6.96	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	2,400
6.9	0.7	Balabac Resources and Holdings Co. Inc.	4.75	5.3	4.75	5	3,641,000
5.6	1.02	Benpres Holdings Corp.	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.2	9,303,000
9.8	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.1	9.1	8,843,000
2.02	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	60,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.6	669,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	48,000
14.5	5.6	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	7,000
0.8	0.185	Medco Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.52	740,000
0.95	0.1	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	80,000
30	0.88	Magnum Holdings Inc.	24.75	24.75	23.5	23.5	467,000
11.5	0.26	Multitech Investments Corp.	9.8	9.8	9	9	4,633,000
5.4	1.2	PAL Holdings Inc.	4.85	5.1	4.8	4.85	1,920,000
0.055	0.009	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.05	0.055	0.044	0.0525	1,024,300,000
0.75	0.16	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.59	0.59	2,580,000
2.02	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	6,000
452.5	200.44	SM Investments Corp.	450	450	445	450	160,380
2.2	0.71	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	51,000
0.73	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.55	0.55	19,590,000
1.06	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.88	0.9	0.88	0.88	1,370,000
1.6	0.78	South China Resources Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1,000
0.75	0.08	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.43	0.47	0.43	0.45	12,620,000
1.1	0.155	Zeus Holdings Inc.	1	1	0.84	0.85	470,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.75	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.66	1.66	1,392,000
1.06	0.3	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	400,000
19.25	9.58	Ayala Land Inc.	18.25	18.25	17.75	17.75	33,296,200
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	2,164,000
4.7	1.96	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.45	4.45	4.4	4.45	34,000
4.6	1.6	City and Land Developers Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	20,000
2.9	1	Cityland Development Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	10,000
0.86	0.26	Crown Equities Inc.	0.83	0.86	0.82	0.84	23,500,000
0.83	0.18	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.56	0.56	5,610,000
3.25	0.72	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	3	3.1	3	3.05	50,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.87	0.87	0.85	0.86	31,450,000
0.32	0.033	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	6,290,000
1.38	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.2	14,110,000
2.44	0.99	Filinvest Land Inc.	2.2	2.22	2.14	2.18	32,054,000
0.41	0.065	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	900,000
0.42	0.07	Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.33	900,000
2.4	0.74	Keppel Philippines Properties Inc.	2.36	2.4	2.36	2.4	70,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.44	0.47	0.44	0.46	2,490,000
1.12	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.97	0.98	0.96	0.97	3,090,000
4.4	1.28	Megaworld Corp.	4.1	4.15	4	4	43,553,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.4	4.45	4.3	4.3	528,000
0.7	0.1	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.48	0.55	0.47	0.51	4,600,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.64	0.64	17,570,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	50,000
23	10.5	Robinson Land Corp.	21.75	21.75	21	21.25	6,313,700
5.7	1.23	SM Development Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.6	788,000
13.25	5.92	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	13.25	13.25	12.5	12.5	4,962,900
1.34	0.51	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	1	1	0.94	0.94	3,870,000
0.36	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,380,000
7.4	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.7	1,606,000
		MEDIA					
35	15.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32.5	35	32.5	35	591,900
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.16	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.54	1.56	6,924,000
1,445.00	900	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,390.00	1,395.00	63,330
2,820.00	1,790.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,730.00	2,740.00	2,710.00	2,715.00	81,190
7.9	3.2	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7.3	7.3	7.1	7.2	7,465,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.29	10,040,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	11	11	10.75	10.75	71,000
9.4	2	IPVG Corp.	9.2	9.4	9.1	9.1	4,656,000
0.065	0.0274	ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.048	66,600,000
25	5.5	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	25	25	23.25	23.5	79,100
2.9	1.8	Ionics Inc.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	50,000
0.185	0.04	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.16	0.175	0.16	0.165	163,950,000
2.08	1.12	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.7	1.72	1.68	1.72	130,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	113,200,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.95	3.15	2.75	3	13,214,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.92	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.72	1.72	359,000
6.8	2.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	5.8	6.2	5.7	5.7	1,037,000
32	13.25	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	29	29	28	28.5	773,300
2.14	0.86	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2.08	2.08	2.02	2.02	550,000
2	0.8	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.82	1.98	1.78	1.98	391,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
16.5	3.8	Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	10,000
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.65	3.65	727,000
6.6	2.7	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	6.3	6.6	6.1	6.1	98,000
4.55	2.8	Philippine Racing Club Inc.	4	4	3.3	3.35	2,005,000
0.98	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.66	0.69	2,900,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.94	1,210,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	5,000
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.25	110,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
5.9	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	5.2	5.6	5.2	5.3	4,423,000
17.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	15.5	15.75	15.25	15.5	392,900
30	9.9	Paxys Inc.	23.5	23.5	23	23	125,000
		MINING					
0.018	0.0075	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.015	44,600,000
7.6	3	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.8	211,000
7.7	3	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.6	5.9	5.6	5.7	1,520,000
21.25	7.4	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	17	17.25	16.75	17	7,175,900
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. "A"	12	12.5	12	12.5	52,200
5	1.7	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	46,000
3.05	0.0713	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	3	3.05	2.85	2.9	28,824,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	5,570,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	4,930,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	231,600,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.034	0.034	0.033	0.033	76,000,000
0.024	0.008	Omico Corp.	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.018	187,300,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.7	3,172,000
35	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	32	35	32	34.5	612,000
1.36	0.35	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.02	1.02	0.98	0.98	370,000
1.8	0.52	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.32	1.34	1,788,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.44	0.47	0.44	0.45	5,020,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	144,500,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	37,600,000
14.25	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.25	10.75	10	10.25	217,400
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.024	0.025	0.023	0.024	234,600,000

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH

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H1 investments in Subic hit $1.4B

Hanjin's outlay enables ecozone to maintain growth

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INVESTMENTS COMmitted to projects in Subic freeport zone reached $1.37 billion in the first half, pushed by the additional capital outlay from South Korean shipbuilder Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Co.

Armand C. Arreza, administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, said most projects approved and registered as of June were expansion initiatives.

The biggest project registered was Hanjin's $684-million additional outlay. This was on top of the initial investment of $1 billion for its shipyard, Arreza said. "(The additional amount) would cover the remaining work under the first and second phases of the company's facility, which would be done in response to the increasing number of orders for vessels," he added.

The company has started building its first vessel, which was valued at $70 million.

HHIC, one of the world's largest shipbuilders, has accepted orders to deliver 33 medium-sized container vessels worth almost $3 billion in the next two years. It also has orders for 82 large vessels for delivery from 2009 to 2011.

Another major project registered during the period was the $431.6-million 300-megawatt power project of the joint venture between the Abotiz group and Taiwan Cogen.

Other projects in SBMA's top 10 list were those of KT Global Subic, Subic Bay International Terminal Corp., Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc., Shin Young Corp., Baypointe Hospital and Medical Center, Pacific Pearl Airways.com Corp., Orient Pearl Entertainment & Management Corp., and Carag & Cook C4 Solutions Inc.

The first-semester tally was 2 percent higher year-on-year.

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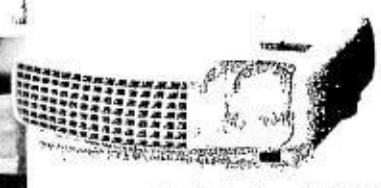
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Rule on FCDU investments relaxed further

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS allowed foreign currency deposit units' (FCDUs) investments in long-term securities to be considered as eligible assets to cover deposit liabilities.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the Monetary Board approved this during its meeting last Thursday.

Prior to the approval of this measure, the FCDUs' investments in long-term securities were not allowed to be used as part of the assets that covered their liabilities. Investments in short-term debt securities, however, have been eligible because these are considered liquid assets.

An FCDU is a unit of a local bank or a local branch of a foreign bank authorized by the BSP to engage in foreign currency-denominated transactions, including accepting deposits and lending in currencies other than the Philippine peso.

Under BSP rules, FCDUs are required to maintain a 100-percent liability cover. This means that every $1 worth of deposit they take should be matched by a $1 asset to ensure they have sufficient capability to service withdrawals.

"FCDUs now have more flexibility in their investment decisions. They can now take alternative investment opportunities available in the market, and hopefully this would help improve their earnings," Tetangco told reporters.

He said the BSP believed there was now a big market for long-term securities and that these could now be easily traded, just like short-term debt paper.

Tetangco, however, said that for long-term securities to be eligible as cover for FCDUs' liabilities, they should be actively traded in the capital market.

Earlier, the Monetary Board allowed FCDUs to invest in more financial instruments, including long-term and foreign currency-denominated paper.

No Free Lunch

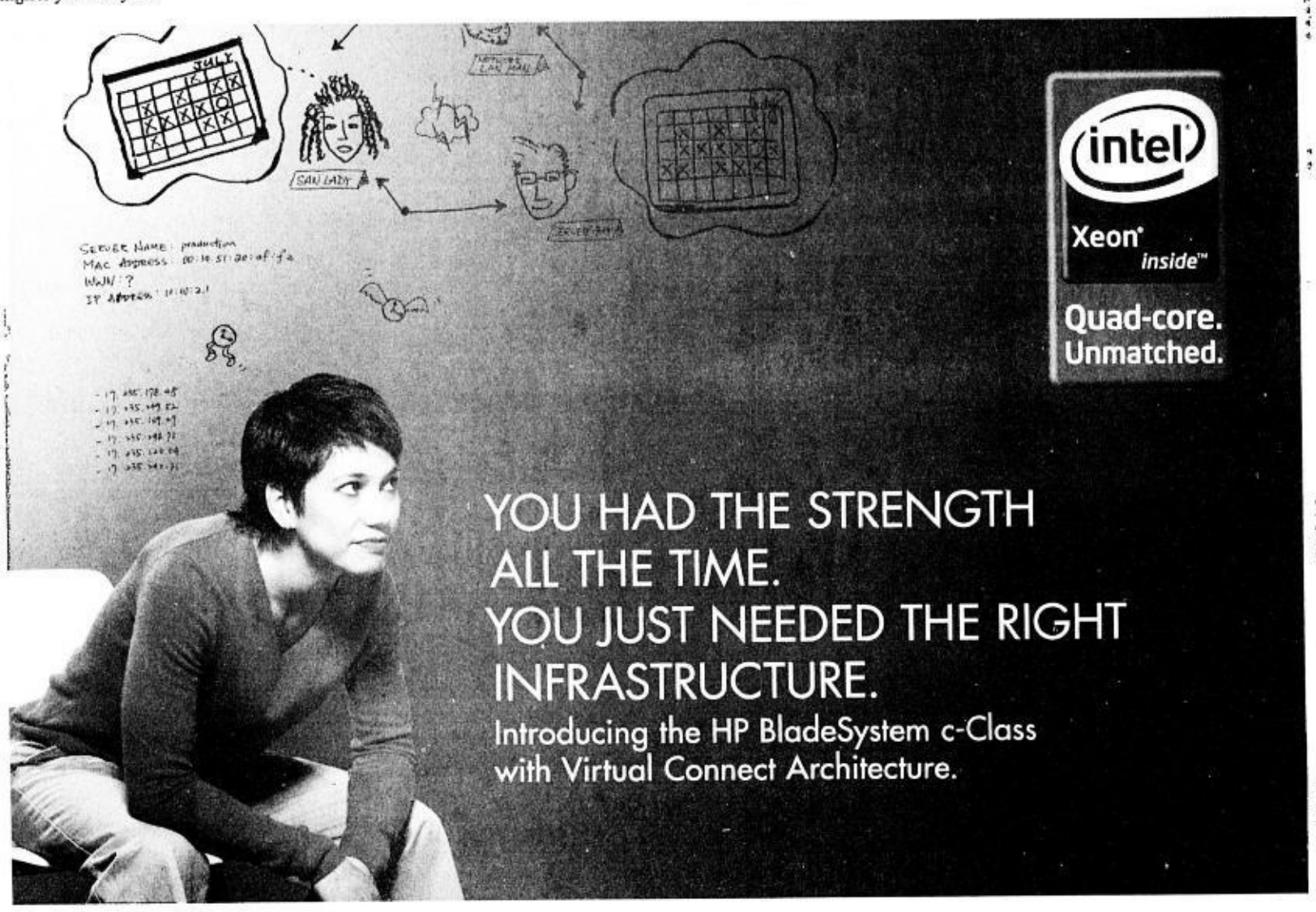
From page B2

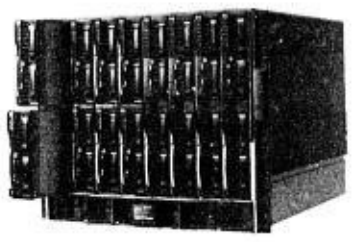
be more of lower-level and less-secure wage jobs now than before.

A perceptive reader further pointed out to me that more than half (524,000) of the one million new jobs reported created were actually unpaid family labor—the kind of jobs I have described before as "all work and no pay." Furthermore, the single biggest group among the new jobs in the services sector was actually "private household employment"—housemaids, family gardeners or drivers.

Lastly, the data also show that we lost 195,000 jobs of the self-employment kind. If this means that underground economy jobs like ambulant vendors, *jueteng* collectors and even prostitutes and drug-pushers have given way to wage-paying jobs, then it could be a good thing. But if it means entrepreneurs struggling with a legitimate microenterprise had been forced to close shop, then I'd be worried. The trouble is, we can't be sure from the numbers which is which.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu




The new HP BladeSystem c-Class is a different breed of infrastructure that utilizes a unique, integrated design. It only has to be wired once for easy set-up and expandability, speeding up your process and helping you allocate resources. And because the virtual LAN/SAN connections are determined up front, the infrastructure won't require adjustments every time you add or move a server, saving you valuable time and effort.

In addition, the HP ProLiant BL460c server blade – featuring Quad-Core Intel® Xeon® Processor – is versatile enough to support 32- and 64-bit computing environments. So, take a close look at The HP BladeSystem c-Class – it's next generation technology that deals well with change, so you won't have to.

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METRO MANILA

ANGONO, RIZAL

SPR_RZL317 WAREHOUSE
LA 4,029.50sqm. FA128sqm.
(Near St. Martin School)
SAN ROQUE, ANGONO
Min. Bid Price: P 6,731,000

ANTIPOLO, RIZAL

SPR_RZL320 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 248sqm (near Cypress Subd.)
Morisville Ext. VISTA VERDE
Min. Bid Price: P 702,000

SPR_RZL768 RSDL LOT
L.A. 238sqm (Near NipaHut Resto)
Kansas Drive,
PALOS VERDES SUBD.
Phase 1-B, Brgy. Seven Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 646,000

SPR_RZL322 RSDL LOT
L.A. 347sqm (Near Budget Lane)
Sto. Nino St. Cor. Ascension St.,
MILAGROS SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 561,000

CAINTA, RIZAL

SPR_RZL329 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 876sqm. F.A. 232.1sqm
L 32 & 34 B12 #116 Sparrow
Eagle St. DON MARIANO SUBD.
San Isidro (Near Brookeside)
Min. Bid Price: P 2,430,000

SPR_RZL332 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,088sqm (Near Meralco)
Columbia St. BROOKSIDE HILLS
SUBD. San Juan
Min. Bid Price: P 2,277,000

SPR_RZL333 RSDL LOT
L.A. 238sqm (Near Golf Course)
Blueberry Bend St. VALLEY
VIEW EXEC. SUBD. Valley Golf
Min. Bid Price: P 674,000

SPR_RZL337 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 200sqm. F.A. 384sqm
(near Sta. Lucia)
Chorinthia St. VISTA VERDE
Min. Bid Price: P 2,603,000

SPR_RZL742 3-STRY
COMMERCIAL BLDG
LA. 1,232sqm FA. 632 sqm
(Near Sta. Lucia Mall)
Q. PLAZA, V.V Soliven III St.,
Brgy. Tatlong Kawayan
Min. Bid Price. P 25,258,600

CALOOCAN

SPR_CAL361 HOUSE& LOT
L.A. 600sqm FA. 230sqm
(Near Maypajo Market)
Antipolo St. cor. Pasig St. MAYPAJO
Min Bid Price: P 3,392,000

SPR_CAL365 3-DR APARTMNT
L.A. 200sqm F.A 104sqm
(Near Ina ng Bayan Church)
#7 Egypt St. JORDAN HTS. Kaybiga
Min Bid Price: P 1,047,000

SPR_CAL366 2-STRY HSE&LOT
L.A. 509sqm FA 860sqm
Glascon St. cor. Munich St.
VISTA VERDE (Along Gen. Luis St.)
Min Bid Price: P 5,087,000

SPR_CAL370 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 146sqm F.A 125.40sqm
No.583 SAN DIEGO COMP. Llano
Rd. Brgy. Llano.
(Near St. Adrew School)
Min Bid Price: 775,000

SPR_CAL371 RSDL LOT
L.A. 240sqm (Near Brgy. Hall)
Guijo St. SILANGAN SUBD.
Deparo
Min Bid Price: P 544,000

SPR_CAL372 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,279sqm
(Near Ina ng Bayan Church)
F. Llano St. DAMONG MALIIT
Novaliches
Min Bid Price: P 2,067,000

SPR_CAL373 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 249sqm F.A. 320sqm
Golden Clarion St. (Near City Hall)
LILLES VILLE Subd. Ph2. Camarin
Min Bid Price: P 2,423,000

SPR_CAL374 RSDL VACANT LOT
VISTA VERDE NORTH Ph-3, Kaybiga

Lot Area	Min Bid Price
144sqm	P 373,000
156sqm	P 404,000
281sqm	P 727,000
316sqm	P 817,000
320sqm	P 877,000

SPR_CAL410 RSDL LOT
L.A. 197sqm (Along Gen. Luis St.)
Munich St. VISTA VERDE EXEC
VILL. Kaybiga
Min Bid Price: P 558,000

SPR_CAL771 RSDL/COMML LOT
L.A. 1,264sqm (Near CITY HALL)
(Good for Condo)
PLARIDEL St. and A. Mabini St.
Brgy. Poblacion Caloocan
Min Bid Price: P 12,858,000

LAS PIÑAS

SPR_LSP414 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 350sqm F.A. 247.56sqm
Tropical Ave. (Near SM South Mall)
BF HOMES INTERNATIONAL
Min Bid Price: P3,438,000

MAKATI

SPR_MKT421 OFFICE CONDO w/
PARKING
F.A. 148sqm (Near Makati Med)
VERNIDA I CONDO. Amorsolo St
Min Bid Price: P 5,378,000

SPR_MKT422 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 35.60sqm (near AMA College)
SOUTH STAR PLAZA,
South Super Hi-way
Min Bid Price: P 721,000

SPR_MKT432 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 287sqm F.A. 78sqm
(Near Loyola Chapel)
Lot 12-B PROGRESSO I,
Guadalupe Viejo
Min Bid Price: P 2,078,000

SPR_MKT428 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 107sqm w/PARKING.
(Near KFC Alfaro)
THE PEAK CONDO Alfaro cor.
Herrera Sts.
Min Bid Price: P 5,617,000

PR_MKT429 OFFICE CONDO
BURGUNDY CONDO, Gil Puyat
(Near Crispa & Makati Medical)

Floor Area	Min Bid Price
45.30sqm	P 3,034,000
66.30sqm	P 4,446,000

SPR_MKT433 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 233sqm w/PARKING
(Near Makati Sport Club)
LPL MANOR Alfaro St.
SALCEDO VILL.
Min Bid Price: P 11,666,000

SPR_MKT434 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 66 sqm.
PALACE OF MAKATI, Burgos St.
(Near Makati Ave.)
Min Bid Price: P 2,933,000

SPR_MKT436 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 150sqm w/ PARKING
(Near Makati Sport Club)
LPL MANOR Alfaro St.,
SALCEDO VILL.
Min Bid Price: P 7,510,000

SPR_MKT437 RDSL/INDUST
HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 295sqm F.A. 260sqm
Suez St. Sta. Cruz (Near Meralco)
near METROPOLITAN AVE.
Min Bid Price: P 7,332,000

SPR_MKT439 RSDL CONDO
T-TOWER CONDO
(Near 7-11 Store)
P. Burgos cor. Calderon St.

Floor Area	Min Bid Price
30sqm	P 921,000
580sqm	P 18,831,000

SPR_MKT441 COMML LOT
L.A 304sqm
(Near Sta. Ana Race Park)
5107 Malolos Bgy. TEJEROS
Min Bid Price: P 4,174,000

MANILA

SPR_MNL443 PNTHSE CONDO
GOTESCO REGENCY TWIN
TOWERS Concepcion St.
(Near SM Manila)

Floor Area	Min Bid Price
372.78sqm	P 7,288,000
373.38sqm	P 7,300,000

SPR_MNL449 HOUSE & LOT
(Near La Tondeña)
L22 Calle Nepomuceno St. Tondo

Lot Area	Min Bid Price
194.00sqm	P 640,000
200.70sqm	P 570,000
216.80sqm	P 616,000
225.00sqm	P 640,000

SPR_MNL451 RSDL LOT
L.A. 154.20sqm
(Near St. Jude Church)
Int. Uli-Uli St. SAN MIGUEL.
Min Bid Price: P 1,309,000

SPR_MNL459 OLD HSE & LOT
L.A. 398sqm F.A. 236sqm
(Near Manuguid Market)
No.3133 B-Abucay St.,
MANUGUID, Tondo.
Min Bid Price: P2,885,000

SPR_MNL460 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A 1,075sqm F.A. 350sqm
No.3173 Pilar St. MANUGUIT,
Tondo (Near Manuguid Market)
Min Bid Price: P 10,417,000

SPR_MNL462 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 2,816sqm (Near C2 Road)
Vasquez St. Tondo
Min Bid Price: P 8,142,000

MARIKINA

SPR_MRK463 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 300sqm FA. 300sqm
No 26 Dasdasan St. MIDTOWN
SUBD (Near Sta. Lucia)
Min Bid Price. P 6,923,000

SPR_MRK741 3-STRY TWNHSE
Ritzwood Lane Townhomes
Brgy. Marikina Hts. (Near St.
Scholastica Schl)

Lot Area	Min Bid Price
151sqm	P 4,593,570
156sqm	P 4,611,420
162sqm	P 4,632,840

MONTALBAN, RIZAL

SPR_RZL341 FARM LOT
LA. 3,901sqm
(Near San Jose Market)
Sampaguita St. ADIA, Montalban
Min. Bid Price: P 1,802,000

SPR_343 RSDL LOT
L.A. 5,314sqm (Near Brgy. Hall)
Lot 2566 Sitio Adja,
BRGY. MANGGAHAN
Min. Bid Price: P 22,994,000

SPR_RZL344 1-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 386sqm. F.A. 128sqm
(Near Montana Subd.)
No. 79 A. Mabini Int. St. BURGOS
Min. Bid Price: P 1,217,000

SPR_RZL345 INDSL LOT
L.A. 11,988sqm
Lot 209 DAO ST.
(Near Municipal Hall)
Min. Bid Price: P 4,592,000

MUNTINLUPA

SPR_MUN471 HOUSE & LOT w/
BASEMENT
L.A. 1,221sqm FA. 1,092sqm
(Near City Hall & Alabang
Business) Regent St. and
Peninsula St. PLEASANT VILL.
Min Bid Price: P 7,225,000

NAVOTAS

SPR_NVT472 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 100sqm F.A 166sqm
(Near Iglesia Cristo)
No.620 M. NAVAL St. Bagumbayan
South
Min Bid Price: P 1,072,000

ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG

SPR_PSG478 OFFICE CONDO
FA 193.32sqm
(Near Mega Mall & EDSA
Shangrila Mall)
ONE MAGNIFICENT MILE
CONDO. San Miguel Ave.
Min Bid Price: P 7,806,000

SPR_PSG796 OFFICE CONDO.
AIC BURGUNDY EMPIRE TOWER
ADB Ave, Sappire & Garnet Rd. St.
Ortigas Center, (AT THE BACK OF
ROBINSON GALLERIA)

Floor Area	Min. Bid Price
25.13 sqm.	P 1,153,450
27.27 sqm.	P 1,297,950
84.56 sqm.	P 4,312,900
103.98 sqm.	P 5,126,350
203.20 sqm.	P 10,795,000

SPR_PSG795 PARKING UNITS
AIC BURGUNDY EMPIRE TOWER
ADB Ave, Sappire & Garnet Rd. St.
Ortigas Center, (AT THE BACK OF
ROBINSON GALLERIA)
Slot 1 F.A. 12sqm
Min. Bid Price: P330,000
(97 prkg slots available)
Slot 2 F.A. 12sqm
Min. Bid Price P350,000
(89 prkg slots available)

PARAÑAQUE

SPR_PRQ474 TOWNHOUSE w/
PARKING
WESTMONT VILLAGE Dr. A.
Santos Ave. (Near City Hall &
Uniwide Ware House Club)

Floor Area	Min Bid Price
77.25sqm	P 1,338,000
131.75sqm	P 2,147,000

SPR_PRQ773 RSDL LOT
Seascape cor Dolphine.
JALEVILLE Subd. (Near St.
Joseph Parish Church Las Piñas)
(Near Coastal Rd. & Kabihasnan)

Lot Area	Min Bid Price
493sqm	P 3,772,000
493sqm	P 3,772,000

SPR_PRQ797 RSDL CONDO
CLEVELAND TOWER
Pacific Avenue, ASIA WORLD CITY

Floor Area	Min. Bid Price
360.71 sqm.	P 12,263,800
363.94 sqm.	P 12,374,300
14.125 sqm	P 255,000

(Parking slot 2 slots available)

SPR_PRQ798 RSDL CONDO
THE BURGUNDY MCKINLEY
PLACE CONDO
Pacific Avenue, ASIA WORLD CITY

Floor Area	Min. Bid Price
97.76 sqm.	P 3,655,850
145.59 sqm.	P 5,569,200
150.21 sqm.	P 5,809,750
152.59 sqm.	P 5,836,950
159.60 sqm.	P 6,172,700

SPR_PRQ799 COMM'L LOT
ASIAWORLD CITY. Brgy. Tambo

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
814 sqm.	P 9,340,650
1,290 sqm.	P 14,802,750
1,913 sqm.	P 21,138,650
9,000 sqm	P 205,550,000

PASAY

SPR_PSY477 4 STRY RSDL
BLDG W/ 8 ROOMS & 3 STRY.
UNFINISHED RSDL BLDG.
L.A. 674sqm F.A. 245sqm & 400sqm
P. ZAMORA St.
(Near MRT & LRT EDSA Station)
Min Bid Price: P 7,993,000

PATEROS

SPR_PAT480 FACTORY BLDG
L.A. 2,397.20 F.A. 2,182sqm
(Near C-5 Rd. & Comml Area)
M. ALMEDA St. San Roque &
Sto. Rosario
Min Bid Price: P 17,216,000

MONTALBAN, RIZAL

SPR_RZL341 FARM LOT
L.A. 3,901sqm (Near San Jose
Market)
Sampaguita St. ADIA, Montalban
Min. Bid Price: P 1,802,000

SPR_343 RSDL LOT
L.A. 5,314sqm (Near Brgy. Hall)
Lot 2566 Sitio Adja, BRGY.
MANGGAHAN
Min. Bid Price: P 22,994,000

SPR_RZL344 1 STRY HOUSE &
LOT
L.A. 380sqm. F.A. 128sqm
(Near Montana Subd.)
No. 79 A. Mabini Int. St. BURGOS
Min. Bid Price: P 1,217,000

SPR_RZL345 INDSL LOT
L.A. 11,988sqm.
Lot 209 DAO ST. (Near Municipal
Hall)
Min. Bid Price: P 4,592,000

PILILIA, RIZAL

SPR_RZL346 FARM LAND
MOTHER'S FARM
Bagong Bayan, San Isidro

Lot Area	Min Bid Price
5,582sqm	P 1,804,000
5,834sqm	P 1,885,000
11,429sqm.	P 3,692,000

QUEZON CITY

SPR_QCB775 11 UNITS APRMT
L.A. 464sqm (Near Ever Gotesco)
B2 L4 Lawaan St. Mapayapa Vill.
III
Min Bid Price: 3,105,000

SPR_QCL482 UNFINISHED
BLDG
L.A. 1,643sqm (Near Broadway
Centrum)
AURORA BLVD. cor. Madison St.
Min Bid Price: P 34,814,000

SPR_QCL484 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 38.60sqm
(Near Ateneo & Katipuna Ave)
XAVIERVILLE ROYALE
CONDO Loyola Hts.
Min Bid Price: P 1,254,000

SPR_QCB486 1 STRY HOUSE &
LOT
L.A 451sqm F.A. 243.35sqm w/
Basement
No 15 Malapat St., Diliman (Near
UP Diliman)
Min Bid Price: P 6,215,000

SPR_QCB487 RSDL LOT
L.A. 621sqm (Near EVER
GOTESCO)
Victorino Salazar St.
Brgy. Holy Spirit, BF HOMES
Min Bid Price: P 4,514,000

SPR_QCB488 WARE HOUSE
L.A 1,497sqm (Near Villa Village)
Quirino Highway Brgy. Talipapa,
NOVALICHES
Min Bid Price: P 18,133,000

SPR_QCB490 RSDL CONDO
TATEM CONDO MINDANAO AVE.,
Brgy. Bago Balay
(Near Congressional Ave)

Floor Area	Min Bid Price
189.53sqm	P 6,365,000
236.84sqm	P 5,120,000
236.84sqm	P 5,981,000
236.84sqm	P 5,981,000

SPR_QCL495 - RSDL CONDO
FA. 45sqm. (2 Units Available)
PRINCE GREGORY CONDO
12th Ave. Cubao (Near ALI Mall,
SM & Gateway)
Min Bid Price P 1,638,000 each unit

SPR_ QCL500 3STRY RSDL
HSE & LOT AND 6-STRY BLDG
L.A. 600sqm F.A 714sqm &
1,177.25sqm
(Near Magsaysay Highschool)
#78 MARYLAND St. and SGT.
CATOLOS ST. Cubao
Min Bid Price: P 26,018,000

SPR_QCB503 6-STRY
COMMERCIAL BLDG
L.A. 2,205sqm FA. 4,480sqm (Near
E. Rodriguez)
(w/ 52 Units & Alley/ Parking lot)
HOSLA CONDOMINIUM I, Tomas
Morato
Min Bid Price: P 78,389,000

QCB510 RSDL CONDO UNIT
WEST MANSION HOTEL,
Zamboanga St.
(Near Visayas Ave & Quezon Ave)

Floor Area	Min Bid Price
12.50sqm	P 162,000 (parking)
37.76sqm	P 1,220,000
55.97sqm	P 2,034,000

SPR_QCB516 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 7,568sqm F.A. 350.01sqm
(Near SM Fairview)
No 45 VILLA LUZVIMINDA
Katigayahan, Nov
Min Bid Price: P 22,284,000

SPR_QCL524 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 80sqm (Near SM & ALI Mall)
UNION SQUARE ONE CONDO
15th Ave. Cubao
Min Bid Price: P 1,938,000

SPR_QCB525 2-STRY OLD HSE
L.A. 450sqm F.A. 225sqm
(Near Sienna College)
Wayan St., MASAMBONG
Min Bid Price: P 5,755,000

SPR_QCB526 2-STRY BLDG w/
WAREHOUSE
L.A.711sqm. F.A. 1,065sqm
Lot 9 Blk 9 Ph2 Ninong Florentino
St. BF HOMES 2, Novaliches
Min Bid Price: P 8,456,000

SPR_QCL258 RSDL LOT
Palanan, CAPITOL DISTRICT
(NEAR LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS)

Lot Area	Min Bid Price
5,000sqm	P 3,157,000 (each)
5,586sqm	P 3,527,000

SAN MATEO, RIZAL

SPR_RZL349 1-STRY
COMMERCIAL BLDG
LA. 165sqm FA. 74sqm
(Near San Mateo Chapel)
431Gen. Luna St.
DULONG BAYAN
Min. Bid Price. P 1,445,000

SPR_RZL350 2-STRY HSE & LOT
w/ Bungalow
LA. 1,495sqm. FAsqm
(Near Ampid Market)
No. 20 DELOS ANGELES SUBD.
AMPID - 1
Min. Bid Price: P 3,324,000

SPR_RZL351 HOUSE & LOT
LA 307sqm FA144sqm
(Beside RCBC Savings Bank)
GUITNANG BAYAN San Mateo
Min. Bid Price: P 1,121,000

TAGUIG

SPR_TAG536 RSDL LOT
L.A. 277sqm (Near FTI)
Lot18 Blk 267 Quirino St.
SIGNAL VILLAGE
Min Bid Price: P 605,000

SPR_TAG537 RSDL LOT
L.A. 3,999sqm (Near City Hall)
JONES EXT., Pawang, Wawa
Min Bid Price: P 2,892,000

SPR_MKT423 MEMORIAL LOT
HERITAGE PARK, Fort Bonifacio
(Within FORT BONIFACIO
GLOBAL CITY)

Type	Lot Area	Min Bid Price
LAWN P	2.44sqm	P 55,100
LAWN R	2.44sqm	P 59,500
LAWN ESP	2.44sqm	P 72,200
GARDEN	19.52sqm	P 627,000
FAMILY	59.04sqm	P 2,700,850

TAYTAY, RIZAL

SPR_RZL339 RSDL LOT
L.A 249sqm (Near Home Sweet
Home Grocery)
Diamond St. PALMERA HOMES II
Min. Bid Price: P 544,000

SPR_RZL340 H&L w/ WRHSE
L.A. 454sqm.
(Near Coca-cola Plant)
Macopa St. DIVIDEND HOMES
Min. Bid Price: P 1,249,000

VALENZUELA

SPR_VAL539 30 DOOR
APRTMNT W/ 3 COMML BLDG
LA. 4,129sqm F.A. 1,393sqm
(Near Mc Arthur -Highway/ Polo
Church)
#26 M. HERNANDEZ St. Mabolo
Min Bid Price: P 17,685,000

SPR_VAL543 HOUSE & LOT
L.A 500sqm F.A 290sqm
(Near Mitsubishi Fan Belt Factory)
No. 37 Malinis St. LAWANG BATO
Min Bid Price: P 1,772,000

SPR_VAL545 WAREHOUSE
LA. 1,234sqm FA. 1,340sqm
(Beside Regina Cycle Center)
KOWLOON COMPD.
Bo. Ugong, Mapulang Lupa
Min Bid Price: P 6,107,000

SPR_VAL546 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 200sqm F.A. 77.5sqm
(Central Corrugated Box Factory)
#26 S. Doneses St. CANUMAY WEST
Min Bid Price: P 887,000

LUZON

BAGUIO

SPR_BAG001 RSDL CONDO
FA 177.16sqm.
(Near Marcos Highway)
BAGUIO CLASSICS CONDO
Green Valley Subdivision
Min. Bid Price: P 3,577,000

SPR_BGT746 RDSL LOT
PINESWOOD GOLF & COUNTRY
ESTATE Within Baguio City & Tuba

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
290 sqm.	P 1,232,500
326 sqm	P 1,385,500
368 sqm.	P 1,407,000
369 sqm.	P 1,264,600
403 sqm.	P 1,712,750
454 sqm.	P 1,929,500
472 sqm.	P 1,604,800

BATANGAS

SPR_BAT855 LOFTY WRHSE
LA. 846sqm Along Nat'l Rd.
(Near Padre Garcia Market)
Brgy. Pansol, PADRE GARCIA
Min. Bid Price P 1,815,000

SPR_BAT222 RSDL/AGRI - LOT
LA 4,667sqm
(Near SM Lipa and Robinson)
BRGY. BALINTAWAK, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 7,538,000

SPR_BAT223 RSDL LOT
LA 1,879sqm
(Near La Salle & Robinson)
MASAGANA Subd. Tambo
Min. Bid Price: P 3,194,000

BULACAN

SPR_BUL079 RSDL LOT
LA. 6,709sqm
(Near Sabang Brgy. Hall)
Alley (Dr. Gonzales ext.)
Barangay Sabang Baliuag
Min Bid Price: P 4,606,000

SPR_BUL718 RSDL LOT
L.A. 4,687sqm
(Near Kalantipay Elem. Schl)
L 3531-D Dr. Luis Reyes St.
Brgy. Kalantipay, Baliuag
Min Bid Price: P 1,096,000

SPR_BUL080 RESORT W/
COTTAGE & FISHPOND
LA 33,337sqm. FA. 2,500 sqm.
(Near Bulacan Municipal Hall)
VILLA EVANGELISTA, Bagumbayan
Min. Bid Price: P 34,035,000

SPR_BUL081 RSDL LOTS
LA. 500sqm
(Near Meycauayan Exit-NLEX)
DONA CONSOLACION VILLAGE
3, Brgy. Malhacan. Meycauyan
Min. Bid Price P 1,700,000

SPR_BUL082 9-RSDL LOTS
LA 4,099sqm
(Near Meycauayan Exit-NLEX)
Samson St. Metro Gate Complex
Brgy. Malhacan, MEYCAUYAN
Min. Bid Price: P 6,693,000

SPR_BUL092 1-STRY HSE & LOT
LA 748sqm. FA 63sqm.
(Near Sta. Maria Cementery)
No. 0913 Brgy. Bilucao, Km.38
Pulong Buhangin Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 570,000

SPR_BUL721 HOUSE & LOT
LA 3,282sqm. FA. 480sqm
(Near Brgy. Matimbulong Chapel)
72 CAGAYAN VALLEY Rd.
Matimbubong, San Ildelonso
Min. Bid Price: P 7,903,000

SPR_BUL722 HOUSE & LOT
LA 630sqm FA. 143sqm
(Near Central ng Kamias School)
Lot 842-E Barrio Kamias. San Miguel
Min. Bid Price: P 942,000

SPR_BUL724 RSDL BLDG
LA. 6,144sqm
(Near Brgy. Catmon Bridge)
359 L150-D&E Prov. Rd,
Bo. Bulac. Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 8,182,000

CAGAYAN
Text 0915-5829178

SPR_CAG003 RSDL LOT
LA. 3,495sqm.
L2 Luis Baligod & Marcos
Anguluan St. Centro, Tuao West
Min. Bid Price: P 2,823,000

CAVITE

SPR_CVT744 RSDL LOT
LA. 304sqm. (Near SM Bacoor)
Gladiola cor Jasmin St. Andres Vil.
Brgy. Panapaan-IV Bacoor
Min. Bid Price: P 880,000

SPR_CVT254 RSDL LOT
Violeta St. ANDREA VILL.Bacoor
(Near SM Bacoor)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
278sqm	P 790,000
279sqm	P 787,000

SPR_CVT256 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 196.10sqm F.A. 90sqm
(Near SM Bacoor)
Lot 12 Blk 5 #272 Along Unnamed
St., Palo Alto MALABANAN
SUBD., Bacoor
Min. Bid Price: P 822,000

SPR_CVT258 RSDL LOT
LA 1,198sqm (Golf Resort Village)
SOUTHWOODS, Kabilang Baybay,
Carmona
Min. Bid Price: P 8,224,000

SPR_CVT259 RSDL LOT
L.A. 3,000sqm. (Near SLEX)
ALONG TECHNOLOGY
Ave.. Peoples Technology
COMPLEX, Carmona Cavite Ind'l
Estate, Poblacion.
Min. Bid Price: P 8,479,000

SPR_CVT260 RSDL LOT
L.A. 21,191sqm.
(Near SM & Robinson- Dasma)
CITIVIEW FARMS Paliparan,
Dasmariñas
Min. Bid Price: P6,977,000

SPR_CVT261 RSDL LOT
L.A. 657sqm
(Near De La Salle Dasma)
THE ORCHARD SUBD.
Salitran, Dasmariñas
Min. Bid Price. P 2,812,000

SPR_CVT253 HOUSE & LOT
LA 198sqm FA 111.87sqm
(Near SM & Robinson Dasmariñas)
B26 L11 Along Dapitong St.
BREENBREEZE Subd II.
Langkaan, Dasmariñas
Min Bid Price: P 776,000

SPR_CVT265 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 348sqm FA. 149sqm
(Near SM & Robinsons Dasma)
L12 B1 DON GREGORIO HTS. 2
SUBD. Abubot, Dasmariñas
Min. Bid Price: P 1,661,000

SPR_CVT272 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 198sqm FA. 132.50sqm
(Near Robinson Dasma)
San Juan St. Gen. Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,039,000

SPR_CVT273 RSDL LOT
PALLAS ATHES EXEC.
Brgy. Anabu, Imus
(Near Dasma Town Proper)

Lot Area	Min Bid Price
300sqm	P 727,000
647sqm	P 1,566,000

SPR_CVT299 RSDL LOT
L.A. 500sqm. (Near CEPZA)
Lot 2686-M, Along REMULLA DRIVE.
Brgy. Sahud, Ulan, Tanza
Min. Bid Price: P 607,000

SPR_CVT 300 RSDL LOT
GOVERNOR'S DRIVE cor.
Sto. Niño St.,Poblacion Ternate
(Near Puerto Azul)

Lot Area	Min Bid Price
1,000sqm	P 1,454,000
1,059sqm	P 1,540,000

SPR_CVT302 RSDL LOT
BALUT ISLAND. Brgy., Bucana
Ternate (within the Island)

Lot Area	Min Bid Price
11,134sqm	P 4,496,000
20,909sqm	P 8,479,000

SPR_CVT304 RSDL LOT
MIRA HILLS SUBD.
Puerto Azul, Ternate

Lot Area	Min Bid Price
1,200sqm	P 4,845,000
1,332sqm	P 5,378,000
1,344sqm	P 5,427,000
1,457sqm	P 5,884,000

SPR_CVT277 2-STRY HSE & LOT
LA. 414sqm. FA 195sqm.
w/ Internal Shop (Near Tagaytay)
No. 109 Along Brgy. Lucsuhin,
SILANG
Min. Bid Price: P 1,498,000

ISABELA
Text 09195829178

SPR_ISB655 RSDL VACANT LOT
L.A. 35,400sqm.
(Near UBIDO's Junkshop)
Bo. Cabaruan, CAUAYAN
Min. Bid Price: P 12,036,000

SPR_ISB657 1-STRY
COMMERCIAL BLDG
LA. 184sqm FA. 120sqm.
Lot 107-D No. 3 Prov. Rd.
SANTIAGO CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 1,763,000

SPR_ISB658 RSDL VACANT LOT
LA. 1,234sqm
(Near Paddad Elem. School)
Maharlika Rd. PADDAD.
ALICIA, Santiago City
Min. Bid Price. P 945,000

SPR_ISB660 1-STRY
COMMERCIAL BLDG
LA. 567sqm. (Near PCI BANK)
DON MARCOS Ave., Centro Roxas
(Formerly Victory Liner Terminal)
Min. Bid Price: P 7,955,000

SPR_ISB661 1 STRY
COMMERCIAL BLDG
LA. 803sqm. F.A 370sqm
(Near Victory Liner Terminal)
Lot 7693-A-5-1, OSMENA St.,
Bo. Vira. Roxas
Min. Bid Price: P 2,389,000

SPR_ISB662 1-STRY HSE & LOT
LA. 474sqm. F.A 200sqm
(Near PCI BANK)
7693-A-5-D GEN. LUNA St. Roxas
Min. Bid Price: P 1,727,000

SPR_ISB663 RSDL VACANT LOT
LA. 965sqm.
(Near Manuel Roxas Hospital &
PNB Roxas Branch)
Lot 7897-A DON MARIANO
MARCOS cor Don Solero Nuesca
St. Roxas
Min. Bid Price: P 2,051,000

SPR_ISB665 RSDL LOT w/
IMPRVMNT
LA 3,559sqm (Near Town Proper)
Lot 5797-A Brgy. San Placido.
Centro, Roxas
Min. Bid Price: P 2,118,000

SPR_ISB666 RSDL LOT
NATIONAL HIGH WAY, Roxas.
(Near Town Proper)

Lot Area	Min Bid Price
1,000sqm	P 255,000
4,000sqm	P 1,020,000
5,000sqm	P 1,275,000
5,104sqm	P 1,302,000

SPR_ISB671 1-STRY
WAREHOUSE BLDG
LA. 3,762sqm FA. 1,900sqm
(Near Pentecostal church)
Poblacion, Aurora, Isabela
Min. Bid Price: P 14,978,000

SPR_ISB672 RSDL VACANT LOT
LA. 2,500sqm
(Beside Capitol Hills Subd)
Lot L-2-B-2-A BO ALIBAGU, Ilagan
Min. Bid Price: P 510,000

SPR_ISB673 RSDL VACANT LOT
LA. 4,468sqm (Near NAPOLCOM)
BO. URINATE, Cauayan, Isabela
Min. Bid Price: P 3,038,000

SPR_ISB674 RSDL VACANT LOT
LA. 48,039sqm
Lot 2 H-V-7136 LIBERTAD,
ECHAGUE
Min. Bid Price: P 2,042,000

SPR_ISB677 WAREHOUSE w/
RRESIDENTIAL BLDG
LA. 2,016sqm FA. 585.50sqm
(300 meter from PNB)
SAN BERNABE St. Prov'l. Rd.
cor. F. Plado St. Roxas
Min. Bid Price: P 4,226,000

SPR_ISB678 1-STRY HOUSE & LOT
LA. 378sqm FA. 168sqm
Lot 7824-A PRES. QUIRINO Ave.
Bo. Vira Roxas City
Min. Bid Price: P 1,966,000

SPR_ISB679 1-STRY HSE & LOT
LA. 372.50
Lot 7825-A DOÑA AURORA St. Bo.
Vira Roxas
Min. Bid Price: P 792,000

LAGUNA

SPR_LGN310 RICELAND
LA 31,519sqm (Near City Proper)
Brgy. Banadero, CALAMBA
Min. Bid Price: P 12,727,000

SPR_LGN311 RSDL/COMML LOT
L.A. 409sqm
(Basie San Jose Polymedic).
Doktora St. (Kanlurán)
Mayapa, CALAMBA
Min. Bid Price: P 1,653,000

SPR_LGN312 COCOLAND w/ HSE
L.A. 48,299sqm FA. 76sqm
(Near Town Proper)
Bo. Layasin, CAVINTI
Min. Bid Price: P 4,589,000

SPR_LGN314 COMML LOT w/ WRHS
LA. 300sqm FA. 600sqm
DONA EUSEBIA SUBD. (Near
SSS BLDG) L7 B2 Yakal St.,
Concepcion, San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price: P 3,919,000

NUEVA ECIJA
Text 09156002733

SPR_NE096 2-STRY HSE & LOT
W INDUSTRIAL WAREHOUSE
LA. 1,000sqm FA. 443sqm
MAHARLIKA HIGHWAY,
Cabanatuan (Beside SM)
Min. Bid Price: P 9,153,000

SPR_NE097 2-DR APARTMENT
LA. 841sqm FA. 50sqm
(Near Cabanatuan Plaza)
281 Int. P. Del Pilar St. Sangitan,
Cabanatuan City
Min. Bid Price: P 1,164,000

SPR_NE099 8-DOOR
APARTMENT
LA. 858sqm FA. 657.68sqm
(Near Wesleyan)
174 MABINI HOMESITE, Paludpod
Cabanatuan City
Min. Bid Price: P 3,309,000

SPR_NE102 HOUSE & LOT
LA 198sqm FA. 108sqm
(Near Water District)
Burgos Ext. bo. Sangilan
CABANATUAN CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 608,000

SPR_NE103 2-RSDL
VACANT LOTS
L.A. 400 sqm. (Near Youngs Clinic)
Bo. Valdefuente,
CABANATUAN CITY
Min. Bid Price P 1,228,000 each

SPR_NE106 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 1,571sqm
(Near Kapitan Pepe Chapel)
L8, 9 and 10, Blk 21 No 30 Abigail
St. BRGY. KAPITAN PEPE
Población Cabanatuan
Min. Bid Price: P 6,192,000

SPR_NE107 RSDL LOT
MACATBONG, CABU,
CABANATUAN CITY
(NEAR CROSSING OF CEBU)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
690sqm	P 335,000
1,500sqm	P 727,000
2,142sqm	P 1,039,000

SPR_NE110 AGRICULTURAL
LA. 27,182sqm
(Near Grand Victoria Estate)
Lot 531-B-1CRUZ ROJA
Cabanatuan City
Min. Bid Price: P 3,648,000

SPR_NE111 HOUSE & LOT
L.A 199sqm. F.A. 65.3sqm
(At the back of Plaza Lebcia)
Lot 1 Blk 4 SAMPAGUITA St.
Dimasalang Cabanatuan
Min. Bid Price: P 1,737,000

SPR_NE112 3-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 164sqm F.A. 356sqm
(Near Mega Center)
Gen. Tino St. Pob. CABANATUAN
(Digital, Decal Lending)
Min. Bid Price: P 3,993,000

SPR_NE113 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 449sqm F.A. 132.6sqm
2116 SARENAS St. Sangitan
Cabanatuan City
(Near Mega Shell)
Min. Bid Price: P 1,884,000

SPR_NE114 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 111sqm. F.A. 145.20sqm
Lot 1 SARENAS St. Sangitan
Cabanatuan City
(Near Mega Shell)
Min. Bid Price: P 601,000

SPR_NE115 RSDL LOT
L.A. 250sqm
DON SIMON St. Poblacion Gapan
(Near Public Market)
Min. Bid Price: P 2,019,000

SPR_NE729 6-DOOR
APARTMENT
LA. 465sqm FA. 693.24sqm
(Near Divina Pastora Church)
L 3107 Delos Reyes St. Poblacion
Gapan
Min. Bid Price. P 6,071,000

SPR_NE734 2 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 32,907sqm
(8 Km from Town Proper)
Lot 2959-A & B Barrio San Andres,
Muñoz
Min. Bid Price: P 840,000

SPR_NE122 RSDL LOT
L.A. 184sqm (Within Old Muñoz)
Poblacion, Muñoz
Min. Bid Price: P 1,330,000

SPR_NE123 AGRI LOT
Bo. Maligaya, Muñoz
(Near Phil. Rice)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
12,954sqm	P 1,047,000
14,768sqm	P 1,194,000
30,527sqm	P 2,466,000

SPR_NE127 RSDL LOT
Prov'l Road, Brgy. Manacnac
Polayan (Near ARC Manacnac)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
1,000sqm	P 323,000
1,066sqm	P 345,000

SPR_NE129 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,443sqm
(Near San Mariano Hosp.)
Brgy. Maugat, Binangonan Rd. San
Antonio,
Min. Bid Price: P 572,000

SPR_NE131 RSDL LOT
L.A. 817sqm (Near Health Center)
EUGENIO St. Poblacion, San Jose
Min. Bid Price: P 3,300,000

SPR_NE132 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 500sqm F.A 145.10sqm
CARDENAS ST. Poblacion,
San Jose (Near Fire Station)
Min. Bid Price. P 3,495,000

SPR_NE133 RSDL LOT
LA. 941sqm
EUGENIO ST. Poblacion,
San Jose (Near Health Center)
Min. Bid Price: P 3,586,000

SPR_NE134 2-STRY HSE & LOT
LA. 150sqm. F.A. 125sqm
PANAHON ST. Calaocan,
San Jose (Within City Proper)
Min. Bid Price: P 720,000

SPR_NE138 4-STRY COMML
BLDG
L.A. 178sqm F.A. 580sqm
ELSA TOWER Poblacion.
San Jose (Within City Proper)
Min. Bid Price. P 6,154,000

SPR_NE139 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 416sqm. F.A. 338sqm
Lot 1746-B RAMOS ST. Pob. San
Jose (Near Municipal Hall)
Min. Bid Price: P 2,212,000

SPR_NE737 RSDL LOT
LA. 784sqm
Lot 2685-B, Bo. Palestina,
San Jose (Near Palestina Plaza)
Min. Bid Price: P 334,000

SPR_NE140 AGRI LOT w/ WRHSE
MAPALAD, Brgy. Rd. Mapalad,
Sta. Rosa
(Near Fort of Magsaysay)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
23,569sqm	P 2,858,000
46,799sqm	P 5,674,000

SPR_NE143 AGRI-LOT
Lot 6-C. Brgy. Road Bo.
San Pascual, Sto. Domingo
(Near Provincial Road)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
4,925sqm	P 319,000
7,795sqm	P 505,000

SPR_NE144 RSDL LOT
L.A. 2,152.6sqm (Near Nat'l Road)
Lot 124-B-1/L -124-B-
3CALIPAHAN, Talavera
Min. Bid Price: P 535,000

SPR_NE149 - RSDL LOT
MAHARLIKA Rd. Bagong Silang,
Talavera (Within City Proper)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
9,061sqm	P 1,203,000
9,980sqm	P 1,325,000

SPR_NE155 RSDL LOT
LA 4,319sqm (Near Provincial Rd)
Bo. of San Pascual, TALAVERA
Min. Bid Price: P 3,139,000

NUEAVA VISCAYA
Text 09195829178

SPR_NV684 1-STRY HOUSE & LOT
LA 559.60sqm FA. 190.30sqm
(Near Town Proper Solano)
Lot4361-B VOGAD St. Solano
Min. Bid Price: P 1,756,000

SPR_NV685 RSDL VACANT LOT
Brgy. Curifang, SOLANO
(Near Kristine's Subdivision)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
575sqm	P 49,000
622sqm	P 53,000
797sqm	P 68,000
878sqm	P 75,000
1,112sqm	P 95,000

PAMPANGA

SPR_PAM740 RSDL LOT
Arayat, Pampanga
(Near Boundary of Arayat & Cabio)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
7,656sqm	P 482,000
13,471sqm	P 859,000

SPR_PAM157 WAREHOUSE
LA. 818sqm FA 169sqm
(Near San Simon Toll Plaza)
Quezon Rd. (NLP Truck Builders)
MEXICO
Min. Bid Price: P 911,000

SPR_PAM159 RSDL LOT
L.A. 600sqm
B4 L21 Don Gregorio St., ST.
FRANCIS VILLAGE
Bo. Dolores San Fernando
Min. Bid Price: P 1,179,000

SPR_PAM160 COMML W/ HSE & LOT
L.A. 308sqm
(Across Plaza Garecia)
No. 554 Mc Arthur H-way,
Dolores SAN FERNANDO
Min. Bid Price: P 12,465,000

SPR_PAM165 AGRI LOT
LA 32,686sqm
(Front of SG Farm)
Lot-157-B Along San Isidro Rd.
Bo. San Pedro SAN SIMON
Min. Bid Price: P 6,600,000

SPR_PAM166 2-STRY HSE & LOT
LA 120sqm. FA 180sqm
(Near San Matias Elem Schl)
Lot 3 Blk 2 San Matias,
STO. TOMAS
Min. Bid Price: P 857,000

SPR_PAM170 1-STRY
COMMERCIAL BLDG
LA 4,280sqm. F.A. 2,449 sqm.
Mac Arthur Highway Bo. Dalaquilan
SAN MATIAS, Sto. Tomas
Min. Bid Price: P 12,840,000

PANGASINAN
Text 09154348252

SPR_PSN005 RSDL LOT
L.A.1,629sqm. (Near Basista
Market)
NO 8 MAGSAYSAY AVE.
Pob, Basista Pangasinan
Min. Bid Price: P 1,063,000

SPR_PSN051 2STRY OLD
HOUSE
LA. 896.43sqm FA 190sqm
(Near Gabon Bridge)
247 Brgy. Quesban, Calasiao
Min Bid Price: P 1,503,000

SPR_PSN055 2STRY APRTMNT
LA. 250sqm FA. 339sqm
(In front of the alley going to LMC
Hospital),
Alley. BRGY. TAPUAC, Dagupan
City
Min. Bid Price: P 3,246,000.00

SPR_PSN060 OLD BUNGALOW
HOUSE
LA. 301sqm. FA. 200sqm
(Near Slaughter House)
364 Salazar St. BRGY. TEBENG
Dagupan
Min Bid Price: P 874,000

SPR_PSN717 RSDL LOT
LA 662sqm (Near By San Carlos
Market)
L 2585 J. Rizal Ave. Pob. SAN
CARLOS
Min. Bid Price: P 1,143,000

SPR_PSN716 RSDL LOT
LA 1,505sqm (Near By San Carlos
Proper)
L 2548-C, J. Rizal Ave. Pob.
SAN CARLOS
Min. Bid Price: P 2,047,000

SPR_PSN065 RSDL LOT
LA 3,686sqm.
F. VILLANUEVA, Brgy. Dalonque
Sta. Barbara (Near Tuliao Bridge)
Min. Bid Price: P 1,853,000

SPR_PSN066 2-STRY OLD HSE
LA. 5,256sqm. FA. 200sqm w/
ROOFDECK
Lot 2-A No.50 Brgy. Pinmaludpud,
URDANETA,
Min. Bid Price: P 2,894,000

QUEZON PROVINCE

SPR_QP352 SUBDIVISION LOTS
L.A. 12,031sqm (Various Lots)
(Near Town Proper)
NUEVA CANDELARIA SUBD.
Nat'l-way, Masin Sur
Min. Bid Price: P 18,229,000

SPR_QP356 RSDL LOT
LA. 5000sqm
(Near San Jose Village)
Ibabang Talim, Lucena
Min. Bid Price: P 808,000

SPR_QP359 VACANT LOT
L.A. 9,501sqm.
(Near Lucena Capitol)
Lot 4, Loreta St. Interior
BRGY. COTTA
Min. Bid Price: P 1,919,000

TAGAYTAY

SPR_TGY221 RAWLAND
LA. 15,000sqm
(INSIDE WOODLAND SUBD)
Brgy. Birinayan TAGAYTAY RIDGE
Min. Bid Price: P 14,415,000

SPR_TGY226 RSDL LOT
RODEO HILLS SUBD.
Brgy. Matabac Alfonso
(Near Royale Tagaytay)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
350sqm	P 425,000.00
375sqm	P 607,000.00
431sqm	P 523,000.00
1,298sqm	P1,049,000.00

SPR_TGY252 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,596sqm (Near Club House)
Washington Ave. Royal Tagaytay
Estate, Alfonso
Min. Bid Price: P 7,733,000

SPR_TGY278 RSDL LOT
L.A. 8,059sqm (Overlooking Taal)
LIGAYA DRIVE Brgy. Sungay
Min. Bid Price: P 16,270,000

SPR_TGY279 RSDL LOT
LA. 237sqm
(Near Tagaytay Solo Grande)
TAGAYTAY WOODSBORROUGH
Min. Bid Price: P 605,000

SPR_TGY298 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,982.5sqm
(Near Woodborrough)
Lot 3 A Bo. ANOLING(Interior lot)
Purok 132, Brgy. Neogan
Min. Bid Price: P 1,602,000

SPR_TGY743 2-STRY HSE & LOT
LA. 198sqm FA. 230sqm
(Near Pinic Grove)
2nd St. SOUTHRIDGE VILLAS
Southridge Residential Estate Brgy.
Sungay
Min. Bid Price: P 3,836,050

SPR_TGY744 RSDL LOT
LA. 380sqm
(Near Mahogany Market)
Orange Blossom & Lime St.
TAGAYTAY Hts. Brgy. kaybagal
Min. Bid Price: P 1,936,000

SPR_TGY746 RSDL CONDO.
F.A. 81.45 sqm.
w/ common prkg. of 43.59 sqm.
TAGAYTAY HIGHLAND
w/ 1 Midland Golf Share
Min. Bid Price: P5,822,500

TARLAC
Text 09163086112

SPR_TAR172 - RSDL LOT
LA. 3,415sqm
(Near Camp Macabulos).
B2 L8,14,15, SAN VICENTE HILLS
SUBD. San Vicente
Min. Bid Price. P 2,204,000

SPR_TAR743 - RSDL LOT
LA. 1,712sqm
#736 Marquez St. Pob. 3,
MONCADA (Near Municipal Hall)
Min. Bid Price: P 1,019,000

SPR_TAR178 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 247sqm. F.A. 221sqm
(Near 7/11 Store)
No.4 Don Benigno st.
AQUINO SUBD., Sto. Cristo
Min. Bid Price: P 1,110,000

SPR_TAR 180 RSDL LOT
Bo. SAN ISIDRO (Near Chapel)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
642sqm	P 163,000
2,979sqm	P 549,000

SPR_TAR182 RSDL LOT
L.A. 928sqm (Near Municipal Hall)
Along San Fernando St.
SAN FERNANDO, Victoria
Min. Bid Price: P 900,000

SPR_TAR185 RSDL LOT
Joemac Subd., Bo. of San Roque
NOW SAN VICENTE
(Near Camp Macabulos)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
990sqm	P 800,000
1,026sqm	P 924,000
1,143sqm	P 997,000

SPR_TAR180 RSDL LOT
LA. 3,400sqm. (Along Bo. Road)
Sitio Banga-Banga,
Bo. Villa Aglipay, San Jose
Min. Bid Price: P 550,000

SPR_TAR192 1-STRY HOUSE & LOT
LA. 303sqm FA.155sqm
#28 SAN RAFAEL HOMESITE
SUBD. San Rafael
(Near San Rafael Chapel)
Min. Bid Price: P 759,000

SPR_TAR217 RSDL LOT
L.A. 373sqm
(Beside Banco San Juan)
M. H. Del Pilar St.,
Bo. STO. CRISTO
Min. Bid Price: P 4,519,000

VISAYAS

AKLAN
Text 09206186282

SPR_AKN547 RSDL LOT
L.A. 5,874sqm
(Near Kalibo Rural Bank)
Cor Lazena & Archbishop Reyes St.
Poblacion, KALIBO
Min Bid Price: P 35,172,000

BACOLOD CITY
Text 09214488869

SPR_BAC548 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 940sqm (Near Gaisano Mall)
Along ARANETA ST., Singcang
Min Bid Price: P 8,730,000

SPR_BAC549 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 300sqm F.A. 183.60sqm
Lot 3-AA&B Blk-12 Margarita St.
Capitolville Subd.,
(Near Dela Salle)
Min Bid Price: P 2,490,000

CEBU CITY
Text 09266256957

SPR_CEB559 3-STRY COMML BLDG
L.A. 1,700sqm FA. 2,327.9sqm
(Near Tabunoc Public Market)
3289-A Along Nat'l Highway,
TABUNOC, Talisay
Min Bid Price. P 21,773,000

SPR_CEB560 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 680sqm F.A 332sqm
(Near Guadalupe Church)
Along road right of way, within
CAVANS COMPD. Bo. Guadalupe
Min Bid Price: P 3,371,000

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
Text 09214488869

SPR_NO554 RSDL LOT
L.A. 750sqm
No. 1 Jose Abad Santos St.
CABUG SUBD., Silay City
Min Bid Price. P 727,000

SPR_NO557 RSDL LOT
LA. 71,964sqm
(Near Cadiz and Escalante)
BRGY. LOPEZ JAENA.
Sagay City
Min Bid Price: P 692,000

MINDANAO

BUTUAN CITY
Text 09283336161

SPR_BUT562 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,837sqm
(Near St. Peter Memorial Chapel)
C.M Recto Langihan
Min Bid Price: P 1,360,000

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
Text 09189470918

SPR_CDO564 VACANT LOT
L.A. 1,000sqm
(Near Kauswagan Elmen. School)
Along PASIL St., Brgy. Kauswagan
Min Bid Price: P 1,160,000

SPR_CDO565 VACANT LOT
LA. 46,116sqm
(Near Women's Devlopt Center)
BO. CANITOAN, CDO
Min Bid Price P 932,000

COTABATO
Text 09192653012

SPR_COT567 2-STRY RSDL
BLDG
LA. 286sqm FA. 150sqm
(Near Sugni Superstore - Super
Market) Lot 7-H-6 Doña Blanco St.
SUPERMARKET SITE
Min Bid Price: P 1,413,000

SPR_COT569 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 343sqm F.A. 293sqm
(Near Magundanao Sky Cable)
2nd St., DON E. SERO SUBD.
RH-5, De Mazenod Ave.
Min Bid Price: P 830,000

SPR_COT570 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
LA. 823sqm F.A. 660.2sqm
(Going to Cotabato Cable)
L 3 B62 7th St. DON E. SERO
Min Bid Price: P 6,117,000

SPR_COT572 HOUSE & LOT
LA.1,264sqm F.A. 320sqm
(Near Old Swimming Resort)
L182 B2 Macapagal St.
BRGY. COLINA ROSARY HGHTS
Min Bid Price: P 2,298,000

SPR_COT573 3-STRY RSDL BLDG
LA. 142sqm FA.
(Beside Sugni Superstore)
Lot 3 Bonifacio St. cor Alonzo St.
Min Bid Price: P 3,934,000

SPR_COT576 4-STRY RSDL BLDG
LA. 230sqm FA. 885sqm
(Beside Wilson Store)
DON ROMAN VILO St.,
Min Bid Price: P 11,782,000

SPR_COT577 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,200sqm FA. 600sqm
(Near Civil Service Office & Beside
DOLE) Lot 2, Lot 3-B, & 3-D Gov.
Gutierrez Ave. Gutierrez Subd., RH-7
Min Bid Price: P 7,984,000

SPR_COT578 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 440sqm F.A 190sqm
(Near Super Market)
Lot 4 Blk. 3 ANACLETO
BADOY EXT.
Min Bid Price: P 804,000

SPR_COT579 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 609sqm F.A. 242sqm
(At the back of Deon E. Sero Elem Schl.)
Lot 7 Blk. 6 Oblates Drive, Rosary
Min Bid Price: P 1,804,000

SPR_COT777 1-STRY HOUSE &LOT
LA. 222sqm FA. 159sqm
(Near adjoining St. to Santos)
Santos St. Extension, Kristanville
Min Bid Price: P 501,000

SPR_COT580 RSDL LOT
L.A. 471sqm
(Near national highway)
Alley Perpendicular to
Sinsuat Ave. Bgy. Rosary
Min Bid Price: P 723,000

SPR_COT782 RSDL LOT w/
MOSQUE
LA. 3,479sqm
(Near RS Buan Elem. School)
R.S. Buan St., Poblacion 1,
Cotabato City
Min Bid Price: P 2,715,000

SPR_COT584 RSDL LOT
L.A. 313sqm (Near squatters area)
Makakua St., Pob. 5,
Min Bid Price: P 5,055,000

SPR_COT783 RSDL LOT
LA. 574sqm (Near kayabe lodge)
Maria Clara St., Rosary Heights 4
Min Bid Price: P 537,000

SPR_COT791 1-STRY HOUSE & LOT
LA. 600sqm FA. 98.55sqm
(Near Regional Hospital)
L183 B3 Ramon Rabago St. RH 12
Min Bid Price: P 901,000

SPR_COT585 AGRI - LOT
L.A. 46,596sqm
(Near Regional Hospital)
Lot 8, Malagapas St., ROSARY HTS.
Min Bid Price: P 3,993,000

SPR_COT586 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 235sqm F.A. 174sqm
(Near NDV High School)
L8 B13, E. Beaugion St.
NOTRE DAME VILLL Kakar,
Rosario Hts.
Min Bid Price: P 1,470,000

SPR_COT587 VACANT LOT
LA. 83sqm (Near Immaculate
Concepcion Church)
Quezon Ave. COTABATO
Min Bid Price: P 671,000

SPR_COT588 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 600sqm F.A. 587sqm
(vacant surrounding residential area)
Rabago St., Cotabato City
Min Bid Price: P 3,233,000

SPR_COT589 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 500sqm F.A. 120sqm
(Near Bureau of Telecom)
Lot 520-C-5-C-2 Within Bagua
2 (Interior of RH Rabago St.
Min Bid Price: P 2,607,000

SPR_COT590 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
LA. 300sqm FA. 323sqm
(Near Coke Bodega)
L13 B10 Sousa St.
Brgy. Pedro Colina
Min Bid Price: P 2,603,000

SPR_COT591 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 471sqm FA. 42sqm
(Near Church)
Rosary Hts. Cotabato City
Min Bid Price: P 1,213,000

DAVAO
Text 09219703112

SPR_DAV593 RSDL & AGRI LOT
L.A. 15,237sqm
(within the booming district of
Ialomo) Bago LIBBY, Puan
Min Bid Price: P 2,215,000

SPR_DAV594 RSDL LOT
L.A. 12,230sqm
(a few kilometers away from NCCC)
Lot 1-8795 Sanggilanan, MA - A,
Min Bid Price: P 2,479,000

SPR_DAV606 3-STRY RSDL &
COMML BLDG
L.A 1,828sqm F.A 3,800sqm
(across GSIS main office, SM & NCCC)
San Miguel, MATINA,
Min Bid Price: P 13,722,000

SPR_DAV607 VACANT LOT
L.A 2,191sqm (Near Solariega)
Bago Aplaya, Toril Dist. Davao
Min Bid Price: P 885,000

SPR_DAV609 1-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 399sqm F.A. 188.2sqm
(Near Mergrande Resort)
L2, Espino Subd., Dumoy, Toril Dist
Min Bid Price: P 652,000

SPR_DAV611 RSDL LOT
L.A. 3,144sqm (Near Brgy. hall)
Purok Waling-waling.
Seminary Drive, Tagum
Min Bid Price: 1,778,000

SPR_DAV612 RSDL LOT
L.A. 4,527sqm
(Near Vales Beach Resort
& Toril Fishing Port Complex)
L15 B33, Daliao, Toril, Davao City
Min Bid Price: P 2,926,000

SPR_DAV614 RSDL LOT
LA. 2,109sqm (Near MAKRO)
Lot 7605-F Balusong 3, SM
VILLAGE EXT., Bangkal
Min Bid Price: P 669,000

GENERAL SANTOS CITY
09267666746

SPR_GSC616 AGRI LOT
L.A 37,965sqm
(Near Purok Kauswagan)
MENESES RD. Brgy. Lagao.
Min Bid Price: P 5,090,000

SPR_GSC317 VACANT LOT
L.A 11,424sqm
(Near New Society High School)
DIVERSION RD. Bo. of Apopong
Min Bid Price P 1,569,000

MAGUINDANAO
Text 09192653012

SPR_MAG624 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 647sqm FA. 220sqm
(Near William Lines Bodega)
L2291-B-1 SALIMBAO.
Sultan Kudarat
Min Bid Price: P 1,323,000

SPR_MAG625 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 2,000sqm FA. 540sqm
(Near William Lines Bodega)
L-141 B-13 SALIMBAO.
Sultan Kudarat
Min Bid Price. P 3,386,000

SPR_MAG626 WRHSE BLDG
L.A 2,063sqm. F.A
(Near Mariamville Housing)
Bo. Gang, Sultan Kudarat
Min Bid Price: P 3,124,000

SPR_MAG627 INDSL & RSDL LOT
LA. 17,417sqm.
(Near Aboitiz Bodega)
CROSSING PINARING,
Sultan Kudarat
Min Bid Price: P 5,187,000

ZAMBOANGA
Text 09198268203

SPR_ZAM628 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 645sqm FA. 370sqm
(Near Palmeras Restaurant)
Ilang -ilang St. VILLA STA. MARIA
Min Bid Price: P 2,036,000

SPR_ZAM637 RSDL LOT
L.A. 307sqm (Near Saavedra Subd.)
Jacobe Drive, cor Alley Brgy. Tetuan
Min Bid Price: P 1,309,000

SPR_ZAM638 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 352sqm FA.148sqm
(Near BCC Complex)
Monserat Dr. San Jose Road
Min Bid Price: P 750,000

SPR_ZAM639 RSDL LOT
LA. 724sqm
(Near Marlon Garden Orchid Hotel)
GOVERNOR'S CAMINS RD,
Brgy. Canelar
Min Bid Price: P 5,263,000

SPR_ZAM651 VACANT LOT
LA. 2,956sqm
(Near Alta Mall)
Don Alfaro, TETUAN
Min Bid Price: P2,353,820

SPR_ZAM653 3-STRY HOUSE & LOT
LA. 240sqm FA. 274sqm
(Near Shell-Guiwan)
2nd St. AURORA VILL., Guiwan
Min Bid Price: P 2,402,355

SPR_ZAM654 RSDL LOT
L.A. 2,453sqm (Near Mormon Church)
Along MORMONS DRIVE. Tetuan
Min Bid Price. P 2,480,725

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INFOTECH

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A NEW look for Acer's Aspire line

LAPTOPS WITH OOMPH!

Acer ups notebook glam factor

By Abigail L. Ho

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN LAPtops were a burden to lug around, not only because they weighed a ton, but also because they were usually either too big or too much of an eyesore.

Now, with notebook manufacturers fighting fiercely to catch the mobile warrior's fancy, it's already possible to carry something that not only packs all the computing power that one needs but also one that shouts panache.

Acer Inc., one of the global leaders in the notebook space, has given its laptops a new look—one that channels sophistication and chic—without sacrificing any of the functions that every techsavvy individual covets.

The new "Gemstone" design of the company's Aspire notebook line boasts of more curves and contours, as well as a holographic 3D finish for the LCD cover.

According to Low Gah Luen, Acer's notebooks and peripherals department head, the design took two years to finalize and execute.

The entire development effort involved consumer surveys in 12 cities in six countries.

"We're riding the global trend in terms of what consumers want in their notebooks," he said. "They want something that's cool yet sophisticated."

The new design not only considers the external look of the notebook, but also takes into account overall comfort for the user.

The company says the CeramiFinish interior surface provides a ceramic-like texture "for a cozy hands-on feel."

Going beyond design, Acer's Aspire line also boasts of certified Dolby Surround sound speakers—giving a new dimension to movies, music, gaming, TV, radio, and audio creation with the quality acoustics that the notebooks offer.

Acer Asia-Pacific regional manager Ricky Tan said the company hoped to maintain its leadership position in the Philippine notebook market with the new Aspire Gemstone line.

He said that, as of end-2006, Acer held a 27.9-percent share of the notebook market.

The fiercely competitive market environment would not make maintaining its hold of the top spot easy, but he expressed confidence that, with the right products in the market, that could be achieved.

FEAST your eyes on this "Gemstone" of a gadget.

The Aspire line covers notebooks priced from as low as P29,900 to P89,900.

The mid-range to high-range models all run on Intel's Centrino Duo Mobile Processor technology and come with either the Windows Vista Home Basic or Home Premium operating system.

The low-range models, priced at P29,900 and P39,900, run on Intel's Celeron M Processor 520 and Intel's Premium Dual Core Processor T2080, respectively, and use the Linux operating system.

The Gemstone design is only available for the mid-range to high-range models. The low-range models feature a matte-finish LCD cover.

All of the notebook models come with Acer's built-in CrystalEye webcam, as well as Dolby Surround sound speakers.

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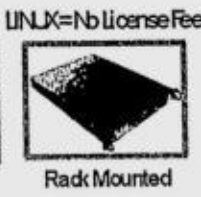

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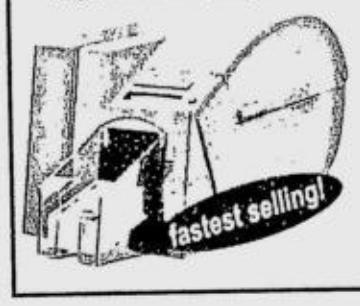

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Localized content to drive growth of Internet, says Yahoo!

By Riza T. Olchondra

CONTENT PROVIDERS, TAKE NOTE: Yahoo! executives say that current and new Internet users are all drawn by services that allow them to access and share local information, such as personal photos and tips on the best coffee place within a block of, say, the Peninsula Hotel in Makati.

Yahoo! Southeast Asia managing director Tom Sipple and regional senior manager for communications Jason Coates said in an interview at the Peninsula that their market studies show country-specific sites make more users "stick" than sites with general content.

"Many Internet users, especially Filipinos, like to share," Coates said. "They want to post pictures, blog, and swap information about their own experiences. And since many Filipinos work overseas, this is great for them because it allows them to keep in touch and, at the same time, share information about where they are."

Yahoo! Singapore thus came up with Yahoo! Pinoy Connect, a community site that aggregates local content from Yahoo! services, including Flickr, del.i.cio.us and Yahoo! Answers.

It also creates a listing of Filipino mailing lists at Yahoo! Groups.

Yahoo! expects that, by next year, Internet users will grow by an additional eight million from the current 14 million.

Executives said Yahoo! is used by 85 percent of the current 14 million local Internet users.

Yahoo! Pinoy Connect started late last year and was originally intended to be a platform for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to communicate with their families in the Philippines.

"The site now caters to four types of users," Sipple said. "There's new Internet users, schools and their teachers and students, Internet cafe owners, and Internet users looking for more multimedia and social networking features."

Yahoo runs around 20 similar country-specific sites, including neighboring countries Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam.

Yahoo is looking to generate advertising opportunities in these portals. At present, Yahoo! Pinoy Connect is carrying ads from the local Department of Tourism.

"Advertisers will have a more targeted audience to reach, including OFWs (overseas Filipino workers)," Sipple said.

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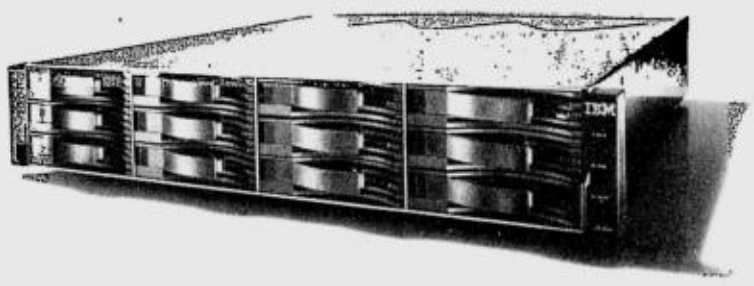

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Apple's Final Cut Studio now ripe for the picking

Work of broadcast pros made easy with all-in-one suite

By Riza T. Olchondra

APPLE'S UPGRADED FINAL CUT Studio 2 is an all-in-one toolkit for experienced broadcasters.

The jaw-dropper here lies in the complexity of the whole suite—something that may very well bring tears to beginners' eyes. And Windows users need not read on.

And yet, the price and complexity could not be helped if one were to consider its advanced features.

Final Cut Studio 2 provides solutions for advanced workflows, asset management, archiving, and tools for collaborative environments, such as the broadcast industry.

The new version of Final Cut Studio boasts of a more streamlined interface with point-and-click, drag-and-drop ease.

The customizable, multipane, task-based layouts and drag-and-drop features may be welcomed by professionals, but newbies are apt to mess up their work using the suite, especially those whose computers are operating on minimum specs and equipped with tiny monitors.

The package has the latest versions of Final Cut Pro, Soundtrack Pro, Motion Compressor, and introduces "Color," ahead of Adobe's update to Premiere and its movie editing software applications slated to be released later this year.

Final Cut Studio's "Color" is a professional color grading and finishing application that will also enable users to create signature looks.

But at the core of Apple's Final Cut Studio 2 is the Final Cut Pro 6, the latest version of the editing software, which allows users to edit different video formats at the same time without the need to change each version, and to remove unwanted camera movements and dialogue.

Deep integration with Motion includes the ability to edit Motion templates with video drop zones, and editable text fields directly in Final Cut Pro.

To make editors' work easier, Apple unveiled Final Cut Server, a powerful new server application that works with Final Cut Studio 2 to provide media asset management and workflow automation for post production and broadcast professionals.

Exported content may not come out its previews, however, and there is no support for AVCHD and Blu-ray cameras.

Still, the richly integrated package certainly has Apple expanding its influence over how films and broadcast programs shows are edited.

All in all, the Final Cut Studio 2 is a worthy upgrade for serious film editors who work on Macs.

They can better appreciate all the programs for handling color correction and other tasks that would otherwise cost thousands of dollars to outsource. Newbies with no Mac, meanwhile, should reach for simpler software.

Final Cut Studio 2 is available through the Apple Store, Apple's retail stores and Apple authorized resellers for a suggested retail price of P81,090.

Registered users of the current version of Final Cut Studio can upgrade for P29,690, while registered users from any previous version of Final Cut Pro can upgrade for P43,390.

Craving for more information on the Final Cut Studio 2? Get it straight from Apple at http://www.apple.com/finalcutstudio/.

Canon unveils new color document scanner

CANON MARKETING (PHILIPPINES) Inc. has introduced a new digital scanning solution for small workgroups and home offices—the Canon DR 1210C Universal Color Scanner.

The Canon DR 1210C document scanner boasts of a compact design, reliability and advanced image processing capabilities inherent in Canon's DR-Scanner line to provide high-end functionality at an entry-level price.

Ideal for general office workload, the Canon DR 1210C allows scanning paperwork to an easy-to-handle digital format for efficient storage and retrieval, through searchable PDF creation and easy share and distribution, with a touch of a button.

Aside from keyword searching, secure and sensitive documents can be encrypted and protected with a password.

Optical Character Recognition (OCR) capabilities also allows automated file name creation, which simplifies indexing. Conversion and organization of contact information with business card scanning is also possible.

"The introduction of the Canon DR 1210C addresses entry-level document management requirements for quick and simple image capturing, processing and routing at a very affordable price," said Abelardo Bolima, assistant director, business imaging solution division, CMPI. "From its sleek and durable design to its imaging flexibility, the Canon DR 1210C offers customers an easy and cost effective way to increase office efficiency and productivity."

Among Canon DR 1210C's best features is its versatility to scan books, magazines, fragile documents or business cards using the flatbed capability.

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PROVISION OF PEST CONTROL SERVICES FOR THE PAG-IBIG FUND CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS AND NCR BRANCHES FOR Y2007-2009

The Pag-IBIG Fund, through the Bids and Awards Committee-Goods & Services intends to apply the sum of One Million Five Hundred Seventy Two Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Pesos and 00/100 (P1,572,880.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Provision of Pest Control Services for the Pag-IBIG Fund Corporate Headquarters and NCR Branches for Y2007-2009. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The Pag-IBIG Fund now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Provision of Pest Control Services. The Contract of Services is required to be in effect within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of Notice of Award. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino citizen/s sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section III of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC-GS Secretariat of Pag-IBIG Fund and inspect the Bidding Documents at Room 704, 7th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City on July 9, 2007 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the BAC-GS Secretariat, Room 704, 7th Floor, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City starting July 9, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check payable to Pag-IBIG Fund. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Pag-IBIG Fund will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on July 16, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. at the Taduran Hall, Room 602, 6th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to Room 704, 7th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City on or before 2:00 PM of July 30, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount indicated in the Bidding Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on July 30, 2007 at the Taduran Hall, Room 602, 6th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City at 2:00 PM. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The Pag-IBIG Fund, Head Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Messrs. Wilfrido Nacito S. Reyes and Jose Maria M. Diaz at 811-4262 / 8945815 or visit our Corporate Website at http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph or e-mail us at gsd@pagibigfund.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) EMMA LINDA B. FARIA
Senior Vice President
Technical Support
Chair, BAC-GS

(PDI–July 9, 2007)

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- Well versed in Microsoft products
- SQL Server Database administration / scripting is a plus

SYSTEMS ENGINEER

Formulates, develops and implements integrated network architectures. Oversees the maintenance of LAN & WAN; Analyzes performance reports or servers, data network equipment and voice network equipment. Analyzes and determines budget requirements, current computer and network systems technology and available vendor offerings to establish optimum computer and network architecture solutions. Plans future enhancements and directions for the company-wide computer network.

REQUIRED SKILLS:

- Windows 2000/2003 Server system administration
- MS Exchange email administration
- Security administration thru MS ISA
- Desktop support skills including hardware troubleshooting
- Backup Administration using Veritas
- Previous call center technical experience a plus

TELCOMS ENGINEER

Oversees the maintenance of Avaya Telephony System. Analyzes performance reports of telephony equipment and voice network equipment. Analyzes and determines budget requirements, telephony and voice network systems technology and available vendor offerings to establish optimum voice architecture solutions. Plans future enhancements and directions for the company-wide computer network.

REQUIRED SKILLS:

- Avaya Site Administration
- Previous Avaya telephony administration / hardware support and maintenance setups
- Previous call center technical experience a plus
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  Terry Farris, Head of Philanthropy Services, UBS Asia-Pacific; *Kandy Anand*, Division President, Coca-Cola Far East; *Rufino dela Rosa*, President, Chowking Business Unit (Jollibee Group)
- THE SOCIAL AGENDA IDENTIFIED: 57-75 CAMPAIGN
  Mario Deriquito, Head, Task Force 57-75 and CSD Director, Ayala Foundation
- AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH: CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE PHILIPPINES
  Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan, President, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines with *Paul Aquino*, President and CEO, PNOC Energy Development Corporation and *Sec. Raphael Lotilla*, Department of Energy

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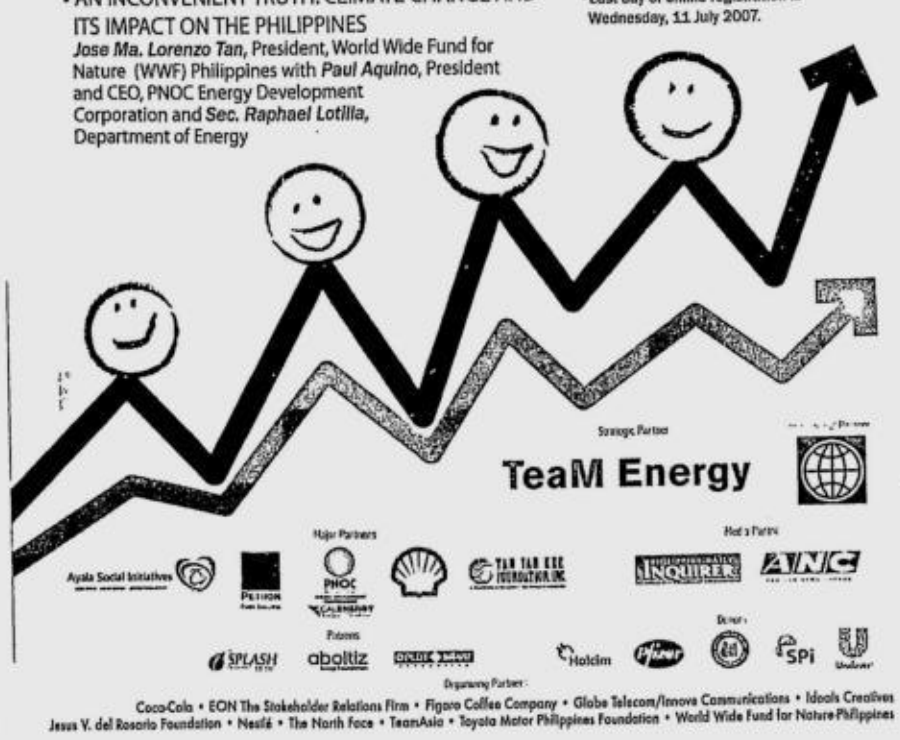
*Last day of online registration is Wednesday, 11 July 2007.



DOF mulls over OFW bond plan

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SAID IT was considering a proposal from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to float bonds targeting overseas Filipino workers.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan, who is also acting national treasurer, agreed with central bank authorities that selling bonds to OFWs will help encourage them to invest rather than deposit all of their savings in banks.

"We (DOF) are considering ways to help benefit the OFW sector and at the same time serve the needs of the government," Tan said in an interview.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. earlier said the central bank had been advocating for the proposal to sell bonds to OFWs to help them augment their income.

The BSP chief said OFWs must be educated on investment options so that their income will be protected from the ill-effects of a strengthening peso.

"If they are educated about how to invest part of their income, then they will be able to offset the impact of a strong currency," he said.

Tan said, however, that authorities have yet to conduct a detailed discussion of the mechanics of selling OFW bonds and that no timetable has been set.

Some issues to be considered in planning a bond float for OFWs include the place of issue (whether it should be held domestically or offshore), and whether the bonds should be sold directly to OFWs or to their families in the country, Tan said.

NutriAsia trims stake in Del Monte

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

NUTRIASIA PACIFIC LTD. OF CONDIments king Joselito Campos sold 50 million of its shares in Singapore-listed pineapple products distributor Del Monte Pacific Ltd., Del Monte said in a disclosure in Singapore.

Following the sale, NutriAsia's stake in Del Monte was trimmed to 79.9 percent from 84.5 percent.

Del Monte is the world's largest pineapple grower.

NutriAsia's shares were sold to institutional investors to boost the stock's liquidity in light of increased interest from investors.

Del Monte said that its turnaround in 2006 and the positive outlook in 2007 generated interest from investors.

San Miguel Corp. earlier said it sold its entire minority stake in joint venture company NutriAsia San Miguel Holdings Ltd. to the NutriAsia Group for $150 million.

NutriAsia San Miguel Holdings Ltd. owns 100 percent of NutriAsia Pacific Ltd., which in turn previously owned 84.5 percent in Del Monte.

Del Monte reported strong full-year profits and record revenues amounting to $243 million, 9 percent higher than the previous year. Reported net profit for the full-year 2006 was $21.0 million, a 13-percent increase that reversed a 34-percent decline in 2005.

Watch rice trade, NFA urges public

By Amy R. Remo

THE NATIONAL FOOD Authority has urged the public to closely monitor the trading of NFA rice and to immediately report any irregularities.

NFA Administrator Jessup P. Navarro issued the appeal as the government prepares for the lean months for rice production.

Navarro likewise ordered the agency's field officials to intensify their rice market monitoring activities to ensure stable supply and prices of rice.

"We encourage the public to give us concrete details of alleged rice trading irregularities, such as the names and addresses of the persons involved so that we can prosecute them accordingly," Navarro said.

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WARNING TO THE PUBLIC

The public is warned that **"MELANIE GAMBOA BAUTISTA"**, whose pictures appear above, was recently arrested on the charge of ESTAFA.

Accused has also been known to have used the following names: "Melanie G. Baltazar" a.k.a. "Melanny G. Baltazar" a.k.a. "Brigette G. Baltazar" a.k.a. "Mellany Brigette Baltazar".

She is reported to have previously worked for the following companies: Times Asia Publication; Eastern Tower Firearms & Ammunitions, Inc.; Christoph & Lanz Realty Consultancy, Inc.; Goldline Realty, Inc.; PAL Employees' Mutual Aid Benefit; Western Communications, Inc.; Chevron Phils., Inc.; Wheels, Inc.; Lifewatch Communications Services; Allkey International, Inc.; and Zuiko International, Inc.

For more information, contact:

Syquia, Syquia & Santos Law Offices
Tel. Nos. (02) 817-1095 and 817-1096; Fax No. (02) 893-5400

(PDI–July 9, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Unit-CAR
BPI Compound, Guisad, Baguio City
Telephone Number (074) 442-4399

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Unit Cordillera Administrative Region (DA-RFU-CAR) intends to apply the sum of Nine Million Four Hundred Eighteen Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Five Pesos and Twenty Six Centavos (P9,418,265.26) from its current appropriation to payments under the contract for projects with Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) as follows:

Lot I – Four Million One Hundred Seventy Two Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Seven Pesos and Twenty Six Centavos (P4,172,727.26) for Supply of Greenhouse materials.

Lot II – Five Million Two Hundred Forty Five Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Eight Pesos (P5,245,538.00) for Supply and Delivery of Organic Fertilizer.

The DA-RFU CAR now invites duly licensed Filipino Contractors, manufacturers, suppliers, with experience in undertaking similar projects costing at least 50% of the subject contracts for bidding, to apply for eligibility and to bid. Bid exceeding the ABC will automatically be rejected.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations – Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (RA-9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA). All particulars relative to eligibility, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and its IRR-A. A complete set of bidding documents shall be issued to interested bidders at the address below upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00 for Application for Eligibility and P4,000.00 for Bid documents for Lot 1 and P5,000.00 for Lot II from July 10-27, 2007 during office hours (8:00 AM-5:00 PM). The bidding documents shall be received personally by the bidder's authorized representative. Following are the schedule of bidding activities:

Bidding Activities	LOT I	LOT II
Issuance of Bid documents	July 10-27, 2007	July 10-27, 2007
Pre-bid Conference	July 18, 2007 10:00 AM	July 18, 2007 2:00 PM
Submission of Eligibility and Bid Documents and	July 30, 2007 On or before 10:00 AM	July 30, 2007 On or before 2:00 PM
Opening of Bids	July 30, 2007 10:00 AM	July 30, 2007 2:00 PM

Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted at the address below. Late bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened at the above stated time, at the DA-RFU-CAR Conference Hall in the presence of the bidder's representative who may choose to attend.

Date of Posting : Newspaper : July 9, 2007
G-EPS : July 9-16, 2007

Address:
Bids and Awards Committee
DA-RFU-CAR, BPI Cmpd. Guisad Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 442-43-99

(Sgd.) **OMER G. WATCHORNA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – July 9, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
WESTERN MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY
Zamboanga City
Website: http://www.wmsu.edu.ph

NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Regents of the Western Mindanao State University formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the **WESTERN MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY** is now open. Interested applicants are invited to send their formal applications to the Search Committee chaired by CHED Commissioner Saturnino M. Ocampo, Jr.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a Natural born Filipino citizen;
- Preferably a holder of an earned doctorate degree;
- Must not be more than 60 years old at the time of application;
- Must have a proven track record as administrator for at least five (5) years preferably in the academe; and
- Must not have record of criminal, civil and/or administrative conviction.

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, the applicants should make a full disclosure of all administrative, criminal, and/or civil cases filed in any court in the Philippines and are required to submit the following clearances:

- National Bureau of Investigation Clearance;
- Ombudsman Clearance;
- Sandiganbayan Clearance;
- Civil Service Commission Clearance and/or Certificate of No Pending Administrative Case issued by the Administrative Officer of present employer.

Formal application addressed to the Search Committee should be accompanied with:

- Detailed Curriculum Vitae (under oath) and authenticated/certified supporting documents;
- Platform of governance as administrator;
- Authenticated Birth Certificate;
- Under Oath CSC Form 212; and
- Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician.

Interested applicants for the position are requested to submit six (6) sets of their formal application and certified supporting documents on or before **August 09, 2007** to:

MR. MARLON N. FABRICANTE
Executive Assistant IV
Office of Commissioner S. M. OCAMPO, JR.
CHED, S/F, DAP Bldg., San Miguel Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 636-1690
Telefax No. (02) 636-1693

OR

ENGR. ARMANDO A. ARQUIZA
University and Board Secretary
Western Mindanao State University
7000 Zamboanga City
Tel. No. (062) 991-3065, (062) 991-1771 loc 1 and loc 2, (062) 991-1040
Fax. (062) 991-3065 & (062) 992-4238

SAMAR STATE COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
San Jorge, Samar

NOTICE OF SEARCH FOR PRESIDENT

The Board of Trustees of Samar State College of Agriculture and Forestry (SSCAF), San Jorge, Samar formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the SSCAF is NOW OPEN.

Minimum Personal Qualifications:

1. Preferably be at least thirty five (35) years old but not more than sixty (60) years old on the date of the application for the position.
2. Must be Filipino citizen.
3. Must be a holder of an earned Doctoral degree.
4. Must have proven track of record as top administrator in academic field such as President Vice-President, Dean or Campus Director, whether in private or public, for at least five (5) years. This must be supported by documents (e.g. Certification or Special Order from the concerned party) stating the managerial, professional and/or administrative experience and the period covered.
5. Must possess leadership in school administration and managerial skills within the purview of the needs, thrusts, goals and objective of the state college/university.
6. Must have a good moral character.
7. Must have not been convicted of any crime involving turpitude or administrative charge.

Note: Qualified applicants are requested to submit the following:

1. Formal Application Letter addressed to:
   Honorable NONA S. RICAFORT
   Chair of the Board of Trustees
   Commissioner
   Upper 5th FLoor, DAP Bldg.
   San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center
   Pasig City 1605
2. Curriculum Vitae with authenticated/certified supporting documents.
3. Applicant's Proposed Vision, Mission, and Thrusts for the College.
4. Neuro-psychiatric Examination Result accomplished by a government physician as recommended by the Search Committee.
5. Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician from a reputable medical center.
6. Clearance certificate (original) from the following:
   a. Ombudsman or Sandiganbayan
   b. Civil Service Commission
   c. National Bureau of Investigation
   d. Institution of Origin
7. Accomplished CSC Form 212, under oath
8. Statement of Assets and Liabilities of Year 2006

Important: Interested applicants must send the above mentioned documentary requirements in seven (7) sets/copies on or before July 26, 2007 to either of the following:

Honorable NONA S. RICAFORT
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Commissioner
Upper 5th Floor, DAP Bldg.
San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City 1605
Attn : Ms. Imelda G. Calvo
Executive Assistant

OR

Honorable NONA S. RICAFORT
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Samar State College of Agriculture and Forestry, San Jorge, Samar 6707
Attn : Manuel J. Baylon, Ed.D
College & Board Secretary

Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Brgy. Magsaysay, Bobon, Northern Samar
MOBILE: (09173042872/09173042867)
E-mail: norsamelco_catarman2007@yahoo.com
FAX #: (055)2518163

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NORTHERN SAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (NORSAMELCO) invites all interested suppliers to participate in a Public Bidding for the following:

Item No.	Description	
1	Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of one (1) unit Brand New 10 MVA Sub-Station, including MV protection, metering, grounding and others (excluding LV. switch gear)	1 lot

Bid Documents maybe obtained at the office of the PBAC, secretary, during office hours starting **July 17 to August 6, 2007** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php7,000.00. Interested bidders must submit their pre-qualification documents, as follows:

1. Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws
2. SEC or DTI Registration as appropriate
3. BIR VAT Certificate
4. Audited Financial Statement for the current year duly received by the BIR
5. Business Permit for the Current Year
6. List of similar contract awarded (*min. of 5 years*)
7. Technical capabilities to handle the contract

Receipt of Letter of Intent	July 17, 2007
Receipt of pre-qualification documents	July 18-24, 2007
Issuance of Notice of Illegibility	July 24-30, 2007

Sealed proposals from eligible bidders will be received by the PBAC on **September 4, 2007** at 2:00 p.m. at NORSAMELCO main office conference room. A pre-bid conference will be held on **August 7, 2007** at 10:00 a.m. at the same venue.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash or manager's check in the amount equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

Bidders shall bid for the whole package. Partial bids will be rejected.

This invitation is open to all suppliers from eligible source countries who purchased a complete set of bidding documents, submitted all the pre-qualification documents mentioned in the ADVERTISEMENT and have been duly accredited and notified by the NORTHERN SAMAR Electric Cooperative, Inc.

The NORSAMELCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein or to accept such bid as maybe considered most advantageous and responsive to the NORSAMELCO.

(Sgd.) **SALVADOR HERNANDEZ**
General Manager

(Sgd.) **NILO ESTOPA**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI - July 5, 9 & 13, 2007)

PET PLANS

NOTICE TO PLANHOLDERS

Pursuant to the resolution of the Honorable Presiding Judge, Cesar O. Untalan, of the Regional Trial Court, National Capital Region, Branch 149, Makati City, dated April 30, 2007, all planholders of PETPLANS, INC. whose pre-need plans had lapsed prior to June 22, 2007, are hereby given six (6) months from said date to reinstate their lapsed plans to make it eligible for the plan conversion program. Reinstatement may be done by paying the arrears and surcharges due the plans.

For further details, contact Reinstatement Section, Ms. Ayi Olmos, at tel. nos. 8925546 to 48 local 160, 894-3151 or 0918-9065610, or e-mail at **ayi_olmos@yahoo.com.**

(PDI–July 9, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
ADELA SERRA TY MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER
Capitol Hills, Tandag, Surigao del Sur
Telefax No. (086) 211-3700

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

(Proposed Supplies & Installation of Dietary Equipment for the Completion of Dietary Department of Hospital Annex Building)

The **Adela Serra Ty Memorial Medical Center**, through the **Fund from Government of the Philippines thru Priority Development Assistance Fund** intends to apply the sum of **Two Million Eight Hundred Forty Seven Thousand Pesos (Php2,847,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Proposed Supplies & Installation of Dietary Equipment for the Completion of Dietary Department of Hospital Annex Building**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

1. The ADELA SERRA TY MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Proposed Supplies & Installation of Dietary Equipment for the Completion of Dietary Department of Hospital Annex Building. Delivery of the GOODS is required by September 2007. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
2. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **P7,000.00**. The method of payment will be Cash.
3. The Adela Serra Ty Memorial Medical Center will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **August 6, 2007, 10:00 AM** at **Conference Room, ASTMMC**.
4. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **10:00 AM, August 20, 2007**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash and in the amount **Php28,470.00** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
5. Bid opening shall be on **August 20, 2007** at **Conference Room, ASTMMC**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
6. The Adela Serra Ty Memorial Medical Center reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Adela Serra Ty Memorial Medical Center
BAC Secretariat
Capitol Hills, Tandag, Surigao del Sur
086-2114306 – Tel. No.
086-2113700 – Fax No.

(Sgd.) **ANTONITA L. OROZCO, MD.**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI–July 9 & 16, 2007)

WESTERN VISAYAS SANITARIUM
(033) 523-9515

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DOH-Western Visayas Sanitarium, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the following contract:

Name of Contract 1	Construction of Main Hospital Building
Location	Western Visayas Sanitarium, Sta. Barbara, Iloilo
Project Description	Furnishing of Labor and Materials for the proposed Construction of additional 35-Bed Hospital Building to include Clinical and Ancillary Services
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Php 16,000,000.00
Contract Duration	360 Calendar Days
Required Minimum Category	Small B

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	July 19-July 25, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	July 19 - July 25, 2007
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	July 30, 2007
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	August 10, 2007
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 20, 2007
6. Pre-bid Conference	September 4, 2007, 9:00 a.m., WVS Conference Room
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	September 18, 2007, 9:00 a.m., WVS Conference Room

The BA C will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Brgy. Inangayan, Sta. Barbara, Iloilo, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Hundred Pesos (Php300.00) to the Western Visayas Sanitarium Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of TEN THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (Php 10,000.00) to the Western Visayas Sanitarium Cashier.

The Western Visayas Sanitarium assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) DR. ELVIRA P. SINORIO
BAC Chairman

(PDI–July 9 & 16, 2007)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/ contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget
87 Pcs. RADO Wrist Watch for 20 Years Service Awardees	P2,146,725.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the Procurement Department at the 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila starting July 9, 2007 upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,100.00.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at Procurement Department Conference Room at 2:00 PM, July 19, 2007. Bidding for the above requirement is scheduled on August 1, 2007 at 1:00 PM.

Please address your queries to the Head-Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee, or call 405-7370; 551-0000 locals 2290 & 2293.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - July 9, 2007)

The Management and Staff of

COMPUTER NETWORK SYSTEMS CORPORATION
and
MOZCOM

Commemorate the 6th Year Death Anniversay of their beloved Founder

DR. WILLY N. GAN

Former President, Computer Network Systems Corp.
Former Chairman & CEO, Mosaic Communications, Inc.

who passed away peacefully on
July 9, 2001 (US Pacific Time)
July 10, 2001 (Manila Time)

Our many thanks to all who keep him in their memory

In Loving Memory

WILLY N. GAN

FEBRUARY 13, 1946 – JULY 10, 2001

His loving wife, **Beta Balagot-Gan**;
children, **Isabelle** and **Richard**;
and son-in-law, **Robert Vecchioni**
request relatives and friends to join them
in their prayers.

Holy Masses will be offered on July 10, 2007 at the following churches:

Shrine of Mary-Our Lady of EDSA
Ortigas, Pasig ..... 5:30 pm

Sto. Niño de Paz-Greenbelt Chapel
Ayala Center, Makati ..... 6:00 pm

Our Lady of Atonement-Baguio Cathedral
Baguio City ..... 7:00 am & 5:15 pm

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church
Cebu City ..... 12:15 pm

Sta. Ana Church, Davao City ..... 5:30 pm

"Our love bonds live on, though you are now on the other side..."

Charlito Furia Curilan

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 7, 2007 at the age of 72.

His body lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels 1354 C. Raymundo Ave. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City

Interment will be on Tuesday, July 17, 2007 at the Pasig Municipal Cemetery following the 11 o'clock service at the Chapel

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In Loving Memory of

ADELA SANTIAGO PUNZALAN

of Malabon City & BF Homes, Kalookan City
(October 23, 1909 – July 07, 2007)

Peacefully joined our Lord and her husband, Dr. Juan M. Punzalan at the age of 97.

Her bereaved children, **RONY & TINA, LINDA & FREDDIE, TONY & LETY, OSCAR** and **ALICE**; grandchildren and great-grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, 12 July 2007, at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

LETICIA D. SALAZAR

Peacefully joined her Creator on July 6, 2007 at the age of 75.

She is survived by her husband **Marcelo**; daughters **Marilyn** (†), and **Marlet**; grandson **Mark Vincent**; and sister **Nena Umali**; nephews, nieces and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at St. Vincent Memorial Chapel, Juan Luna Ext., Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila.

Interment will be tomorrow, July 10, 2007, 4:00 p.m. at the Manila North Green Cemetery.

Notify family and friends of a loved one who had just passed away.

We accept death notices, announcing details of the person's wake and interment. For a very affordable fee you can reach out to everyone who have been a part of the life of your dearly departed.
For more information, you may contact Inquirer Classifieds at (02)897 8425.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

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Maybunga, Pasig City

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(1) Teacher I; SG-10; Item No. TCH1-54182; Bachelor of Secondary Education or Bachelor's Degree plus 18 professional units in Education; No experience required; Eligibility: LET.

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- At least eight (8) years related work experience in Administration Management;

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- Familiar on Steel Structural Project analysis;
- At least eight (8) years related work experience in Engineering Management;

PRODUCTION TECHNICAL MANAGER
- Graduate of Mechanical Engineering course;
- Excellent computer application operation;
- Must have related work experience in structural matr'l. planning
- Prepares tehnical drawing and specification specifically steel structural manufacturing fabrication,

PRODUCTION QUALITY CONTROLLER
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- At least five (5) years experience as Quality Control Inspector in Steel Structural Fabrication.
- Know how to interpret drawings, Knowledgeable in Auto Cadd Operation . Know how to analize structural material planning.

MACHINE/EQUIPMENT ENGINEER
- Graduate of Mechanical Engineering course;
- At least five (5) years experience in Rotating Machineries
- Has a deep understanding of pneumatics. Knowledgeable in different types of cutting machines including cranes.

Interested applicants may directly apply and/or submit their resume to the address indicated below:

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Bagong Barrio
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LOT 2 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 400 sqm
Rd 1 Blk. 2-A, Congress Village
Bagumbong
Minimum Bid Price: 600,000
LOT 3 LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 720 sqm
Lot 3439 Gen. Mascardo Street
Bagong Barrio
Minimum Bid Price: 6,000,000

LAS PIÑAS
LOT 4 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 971 sqm.
Padre Ciera Ave., Pulang Lupa
Minimum Bid Price: 11,400,000
LOT 5 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 6,463 sqm.
Padre Ciera Ave., Pulang Lupa
Minimum Bid Price: 50,760,000

MAKATI
LOT 6 CONDO-CMML
Floor Area: 184.27 sqm.
Unit 20-C, The World Centre Condo. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Salcedo Village
Minimum Bid Price: 8,700,000

MALABON
LOT 7 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 857 sqm.
4 Cayetano Arellano Street
Minimum Bid Price: 6,100,000
LOT 8 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 8,318 sqm.
3 Bustamante Street Brgy. Catmon
Minimum Bid Price: 31,950,000

MANILA
LOT 9 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,373 sqm.
NO. 1447 Leroy St. Paco
Minimum Bid Price: 15,750,000

PARAÑAQUE
Cleveland Tower Condo. E. Aguinaldo Blvd. Asiaworld City
LOT 10 CONDO-RSDL (w/ 2 parking slots)
Floor Area: 356.61 sqm.
Unit 26-A
Minimum Bid Price: 7,500,000
LOT 11 CONDO-RSDL (w/ 2 parking slots)
Floor Area: 356.61 sqm.
Unit 26-B
Minimum Bid Price: 7,500,000

QUEZON CITY
LOT 12 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 381 sqm.
NO. 45 East Riverside St. San Francisco Del Monte
Minimum Bid Price: 1,800,000

VALENZUELA
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3 San Andres, Canumay
Minimum Bid Price: 18,980,000
LOT 14 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 4,835 sqm.
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Minimum Bid Price: 20,790,000

RIZAL
LOT 15 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 400 sqm.
Lot 12 Block 21, Road Lot 9-A, Village East Exec. Homes, Angono
Minimum Bid Price: 400,000
Cottonwood Heights, Bo. San Isidro, Antipolo, Rizal
LOT 16 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 542 sqm.
Blk 10 Lot 1 Rosewood cor. Laurelwood St.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,612,450
LOT 17 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 415 sqm.
Blk 5 Lot 20 Rosewood
Minimum Bid Price: 1,234,625
LOT 18 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 490 sqm.
Blk 7 Lot 29 Cottonwood Drive
Minimum Bid Price: 1,457,750

BAGUIO
Richgate Square II Condo., Loblolly Pine cor. Catmon Cupang, Brgy. Camp 7, Baguio
LOT 19 CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 115.87 sqm.
Unit 21-D
Minimum Bid Price: 3,000,000
LOT 20 CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 136.49 sqm.
Unit 26-B
Minimum Bid Price: 3,500,000

BATANGAS
LOT 21 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 675 sqm.
J. Zuno Street., Poblacion, E. Rosario
Minimum Bid Price: 3,525,000
LOT 22 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 294 sqm.
D. Silang St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 2,775,000

BULACAN
LOT 23 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 5,726 sqm.
Bo. Cruz na Daan, San Rafael
Minimum Bid Price: 9,095,000
LOT 24 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,997 sqm.
Lot 5216-B-1, Bo. Malandang Sili, Pandi
Minimum Bid Price: 720,000
LOT 25 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,984 sqm.
Provincial Rd., Bo. Talacsan, San Rafael
Minimum Bid Price: 1,200,000
LOT 26 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 301 sqm.
Dao cor. Palm Sts., Town & Country North Executive Village, Phase I, Bo. Abangan, Marilao
Minimum Bid Price: 633,000
LOT 27 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 10,000 sqm.
Lot 2-C, Bo. Perez & Bahay Pare, Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price: 21,000,000
LOT 28 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 10,000 sqm.
Bo. Bahay Pare, Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price: 8,400,000

CAVITE
LOT 29 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 465 sqm.
Lot 21 Blk 2, Grand Cypress Road, Manila Southwoods, Carmona
Minimum Bid Price: 1,350,000
LOT 30 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 971 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 7 Ph. III, Southwoods Ave. Manila Southwoods, Carmona
Minimum Bid Price: 2,850,000
LOT 31 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 325 sqm.
L13/B31, Brgy. Quintana, Trece Martirez
Minimum Bid Price: 318,500
LOT 32 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300 sqm.
L15/B31, Brgy. Quintana, Trece Martirez
Minimum Bid Price: 294,000

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BUSINESS

Budget for NFA's rice importation proposed

Gov't studies measures to reform agency

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE HAS PROposed the allocation of portion of the country's annual budget for the National Food Authority's rice importation.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan said earmarking a specific budget for the NFA's rice importation would instill transparency and better handling of its finances.

At present, the NFA finances its rice importation with funds raised mainly through borrowings.

Because these borrowings carry sovereign guarantees, the national government ends up paying for the loans in case of default. Besides granting sovereign guarantees to the NFA's liabilities, the national government also provides subsidies to the state-owned firm in case of cash shortfall.

Tan said that rather than allowing the NFA to borrow and then seek financial assistance from the government, it would be wiser to allocate a portion of the national budget for its rice importation. This way, he said, there would be discipline in keeping its spending within the budget.

This proposal was just among the measures recommended to reform the NFA.

Another proposal was to privatize the commercial function of the NFA and make it focus solely on the regulation of rice trading by the private sector.

The national government has solicited foreign aid to finance a program that will rationalize the functions of financially bleeding state-owned firms, including the NFA.

Last year, the NFA posted a deficit of P16 billion. This was partly plugged with a P900-million subsidy from the national government. The balance was covered by borrowings.

The NFA, however, said its losses were a repercussion of one of its core mandates, which was to ensure steady supply of affordable rice.

Because of this role, the NFA said it was forced to import rice even at a high price in times of shortfall in domestic supply, and sell them at lower prices.

Tan said it was understandable for the NFA to post losses in its operations because of its mandate. However, it said there could be better ways to manage its finances.

He said an allocation from the national budget could be one prudent move.

Finance Undersecretary Jeremias Paul Jr. earlier said the NFA had made a commitment not to further bloat its deficit. He said the state-owned firm had started implementing measures to streamline operations and cut down on cost.

But Paul said the NFA could not commit to wipe out its deficit, adding that 30 percent of its cost was accounted for by operations. Grains importation accounted for 70 percent of the agency's cost.

CURRENCIES

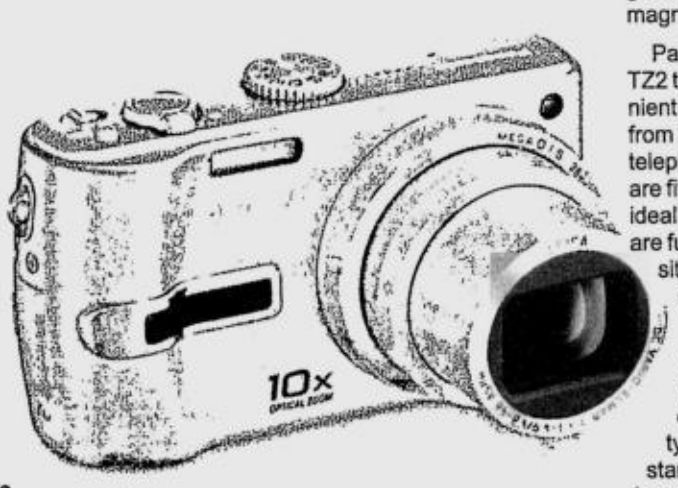
July 6, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.735132	1.000000	46.1180
Japan	Yen	0.005983	0.008139	0.3754
United Kingdom	Pound	1.479380	2.012400	92.8079
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.094046	0.127931	5.8999
Switzerland	Franc	0.604003	0.821625	37.8917
Canada	Dollar	0.695884	0.946611	43.6558
Singapore	Dollar	0.483226	0.657333	30.3149
Australia	Dollar	0.629340	0.856091	39.4812
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.950107	2.652731	122.3386
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.196024	0.266652	12.2975
Brunei	Dollar	0.481643	0.655179	30.2155
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000111	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.023790	0.032362	1.4925
UAE	Dirham	0.200156	0.272272	12.5566
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.360300	62.7343
Korea	Won	0.000798	0.001085	0.0500
China	Yuan**	0.096749	0.131607	6.0695
Argentina	Peso	0.237331	0.322841	14.8888
Brazil	Real	0.384342	0.522821	24.1115
Denmark	Kroner	0.134418	0.182849	8.4326
India	Rupee	0.018237	0.024808	1.1441
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213391	0.290276	13.3869
Mexico	New Peso	0.068053	0.092573	4.2693
New Zealand	Dollar	0.576213	0.783822	36.1483
South Africa	Rand	0.104695	0.142416	6.5679
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022422	0.030500	1.4066

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—July 5, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of July 5, 2007

Panasonic introduces new digital duo

Panasonic amplifies photography excitement and excellence ten times with a new pair of state-of-the-art, compact and stylish digital cameras, the preposterous pair of 7.2-Megapixel DMC-TZ3 and 6.0-Megapixel DMC-TZ2 that broaden the wonders of the art of the photography into full blast.

TZ3



TZ2

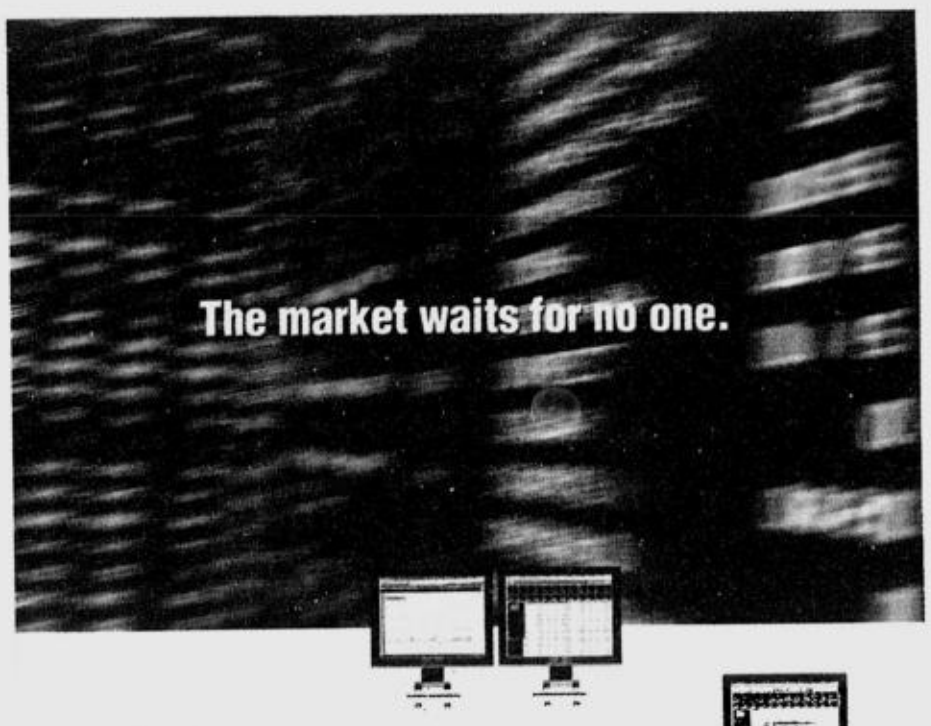
The new TZ3 and TZ2 went several notches higher than their predécessor in terms of outstanding performance by featuring a 28mm wide-angle LEICA DC VARIO-ELMAR lens

The TZ3 and TZ2 are successors to the legendary DMC-TZ1, a Panasonic phenomenon conceived as a 'World Traveller' that not only offered a 10x optical zoom and compact styling but also incorporated a host of unique, traveller-friendly functions that have earned accolades worldwide. The new TZ3 and TZ2 went several notches higher than their predecessor in terms of outstanding performance by featuring a 28mm wide-angle LEICA DC VARIO-ELMAR lens. While the 10x zoom lets you take close-up shots even at great distance from your subject, the wide-angle lens takes its turn in situations where you are at the closest proximity to your subject. With the TZ3 and TZ2 you can capture portraits of people with expansive scenery or large structures in the background. You can also zoom in or out to magnify a distant subject when desired.

Panasonic redesigned the TZ3 and TZ2 to make it smaller but more convenient and more tasteful. Able to shoot from 28mm at the wide end to 280mm telephoto, these photographic marvels are fit-in-your-pocket cameras and are ideal travelling companions since they are fully equipped for any photo shooting situations in long distance travels and excursions.

Armed with the Intelligent Image Stabilization system, a Panasonic pioneering feature, the TZ3 and TZ2 digital cameras combine great quality inside and out as they render outstanding pictures albeit several disrupting motions and external factors.

Other features that improve usability and convenience include a Clipboard function that holds information, several new scene modes, and a Direct Print feature that allows quick, easy printouts. Also, the lens cap is now built into the camera itself and serves as an automatic protective barrier, bringing Panasonic's new models into quality innovations for modern life.



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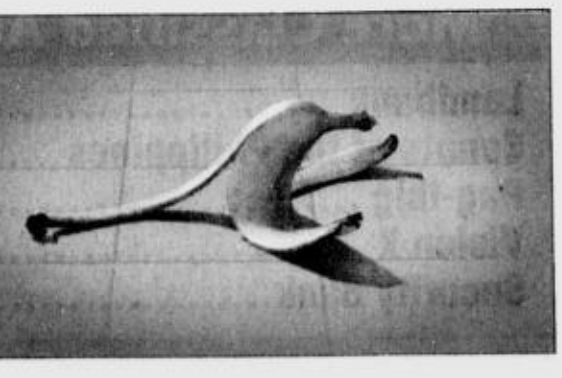

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Pedicabs: A renaissance

German reinvention finds way to London, Paris, Rome

By Doris C. Dumlao

BERLIN—EUROPE HAS DRAWN INSPIRATION from Asia's iconic but nearly extinct pedicab system to offer a chic and environment-friendly mode of urban transportation.

Sleeker than its Mandarin forefather—the rickshaw, and its cousins in Manila, Bangkok and Melaka—the modern tricycle was reinvented here in Germany's capital city and has since made inroads into other major European cities like London, Amsterdam, Paris and Rome.

The designer pedicab—a hybrid three-wheeler—has also made waves in megacities outside the eurozone like New York and Dubai.

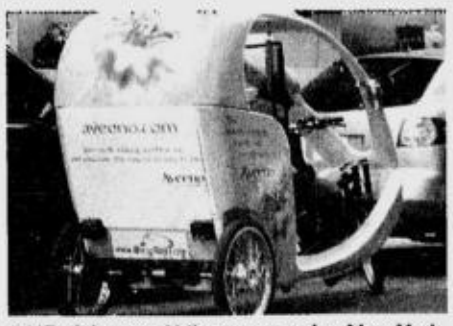
It has even found its way back to the land of its birth, but so far limited itself to wealthy Asian cities like Tokyo and Seoul.

The novel pedicab-rickshaw wheeler was pioneered here 10 years ago by Ludger Matuszewski, a yuppie from Daimler Chrysler, who got bored with his job, went on sabbatical leave and picked up the idea of a shared taxi service while vacationing in South America.

As soon as he got back home, he quit his job, put up his own company, Velotaxi, designed and patented the fancy pedicab and branded it the "CityCruiser," which can now be found in 17 countries around the globe.

While Asia has largely relegated the pedicabs to far-flung routes, instead favoring the fully motorized tricycles for short-distance transport (usually at the cost of air and noise pollution), Velotaxi's three-wheeler revolutionized the pedicab not only as a "green" transportation option but also as a new advertising tool for global retailers.

In short, it's meant to be a vehicle for people and brands.



ONE of the novel bikes exported to New York

This designer pedicab has become so hip that international labels like Phillips, Nike and Esprit became Velotaxi's first advertisers.

Despite being a small player in the midst of Europe's highly efficient public transportation system, the Velotaxi has found its niche, offering leisurely short-distance rides in these urban hubs where parking spaces are scarce and fees exorbitant; or plying the narrow, cobble-stoned streets where even the compact cars that Europeans love can't go into.

Designer tricycles

One can't miss these designer pedicabs, especially in tourist hubs, for instance, in the vicinity of the famed cathedral in Cologne (where the bones of the three kings are claimed to be buried), the busy port of Hamburg or the Dam Square in Amsterdam.

But unlike Asia's pedicabs, which are mostly owned and run by single proprietors operating single or few units (in most cases, the proprietors are the pedicab drivers themselves) and generate revenues solely from passenger traffic, Velotaxi's business model is

PEDICABS/ B2-2

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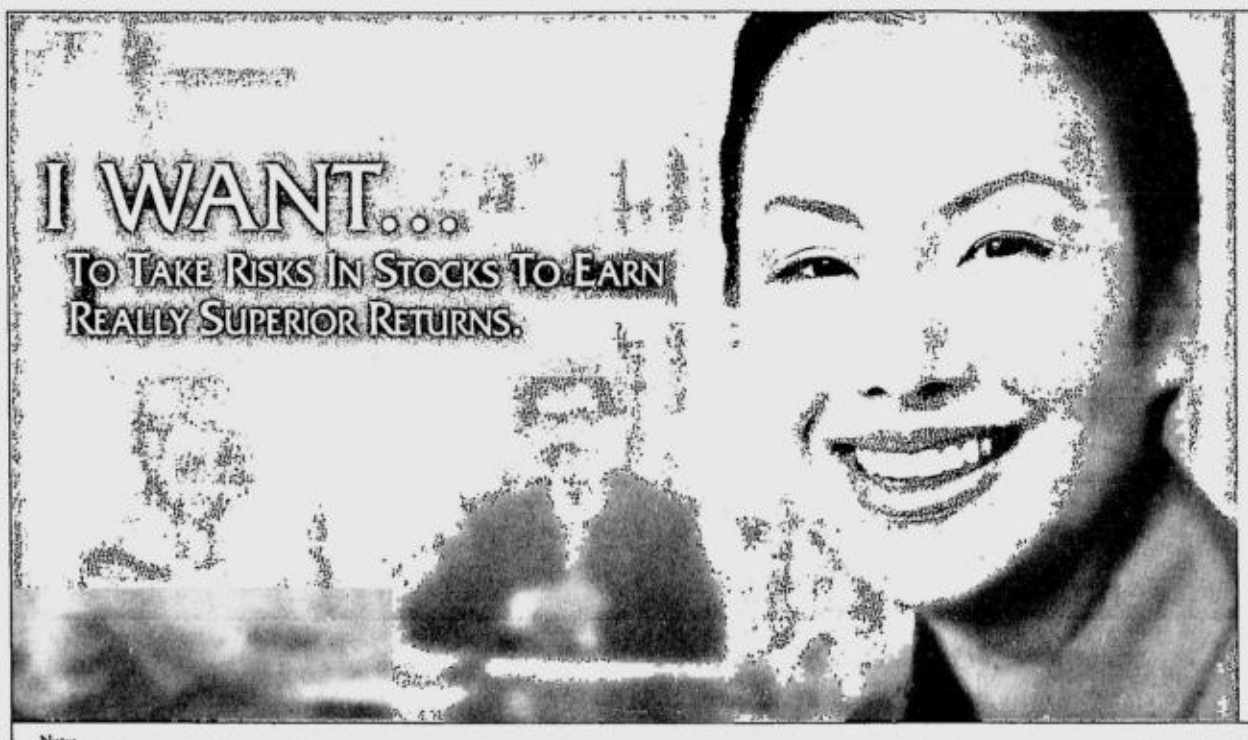

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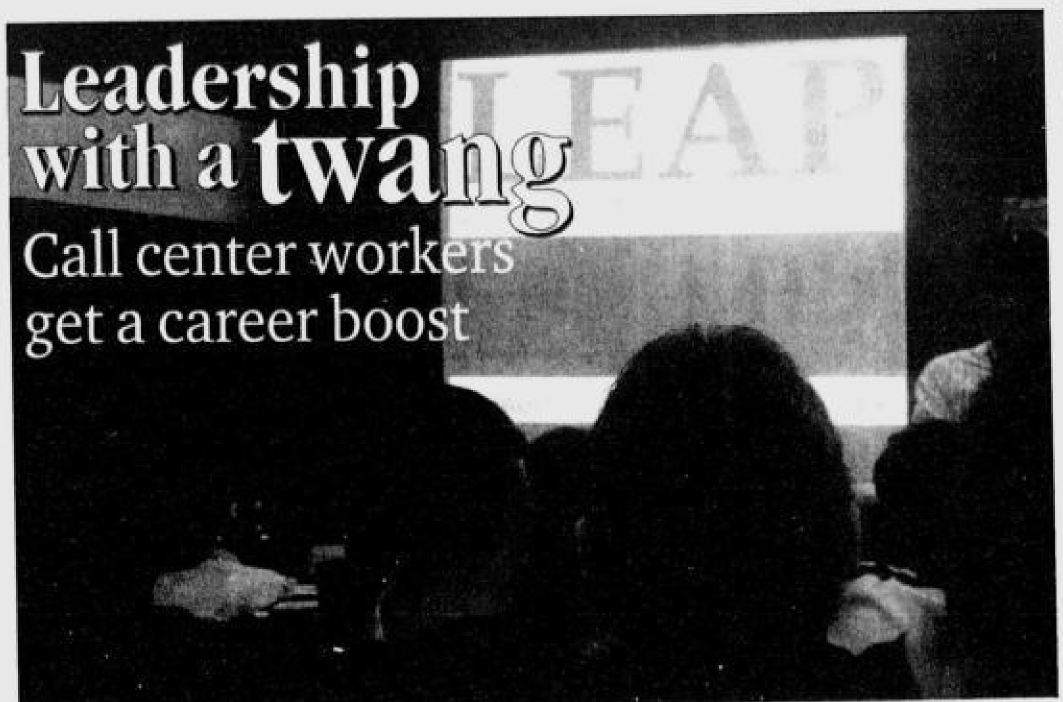
Leadership with a twang

Call center workers get a career boost



By Abigail L. Ho

THEY'RE TRAINED TO speak like Americans and are expected to have a good enough grasp of United States geography and culture to know which states are on what side of the coast and which team bagged last season's NBA ring.

Across all call centers, the training for customer service representatives is practically the same—language, diction, pronunciation, enunciation, geography, culture and proper phone decorum.

But there's one company that has gone beyond the usual training, in a bid to erase the notion that a call center job is a dead-end job.

Business process outsourcing firm TeleTech Holdings Inc. seeks to have employees that are not only good listeners, but also good and effective leaders.

The company's Leadership Excellence and Achievement Program (LEAP) leverages on 15 modules specially designed to inspire employees to become leaders and not just excellent English speakers and good call center agents.

Issues tackled in the 15 training modules include anything and everything a good manager needs to know.

Not only are participants taught the basic concepts of leadership and management, but they are also given tips on how to improve themselves, both personally and professionally.

"We have several avenues for learning and developing inside TeleTech. We combine instructor-led trainings with our online education platform—TeleTech University. From our supervisor development program to our leadership effectiveness program, TeleTech remains focused on harnessing the talent and potential of its employees," TeleTech general manager and vice president Maulik Parekh says.

Fruitful workshops

TeleTech has designed LEAP to be a "week-long celebration of leadership, teamwork and *malasakit*" or the Filipino equivalent of care for another person's welfare.

The recently launched quarterly program is implemented via five five-hour sessions that involve lectures, team-building activities, lessons on malasakit and on practical applications of the LEAP principles within the organization.

LEAP aims to improve the management and leadership behavior and practices of employees, to boost employee morale, reduce stress and frustration from leadership roles, enhance work relationships among employees, and ensure the achievement of performance goals and metrics.

"LEAP teaches employees that leadership does not automatically come through titles. It has to be earned," TeleTech executive director for operations AJ Maralit says.

According to Parekh, even prior to the implementation of LEAP in TeleTech, the company has already been encouraging employees to strive to be better managers.

Maralit is a good example of that, he relates, having risen from the ranks as operations manager of TeleTech's Fort Bonifacio site to executive director for operations handling five call centers—in just three years.

Now with LEAP, the company aims to produce more employees like Maralit.

Carlo Casas, Teletech's quality supervisor in the Cainta call center where the first LEAP sessions were held, attests to how the program can help instill the right values that can help him and his teammates become better employees in the long term.

"Being a supervisor for more than a year now, this course gave me sufficient knowledge and added more value in the way I represent TeleTech, as well as improved the way I value my team and the company's core values," he relates.

He adds that through LEAP, he has learned to value teamwork, malasakit, dedication and loyalty even more.

Higher studies

Apart from LEAP, TeleTech also has in place a scholarship program that will allow its employees to pursue a Master in Business Administration (MBA) degree, to enable them to become more competitive in the workplace and even in the global environment.

TeleTech has partnered with the Ateneo Graduate School of Business, De La Salle University, and Silliman University, among others, for the MBA scholarship program, dubbed "UpGRADE," the first of its kind in the call center industry in the country.

One of the major goals of the scholarship program is to provide motivation and inspiration to call center workers, as well as to hone the management potential of prospective MBA students.

EMPLOYEES take part in Teletech's LEAP program designed to make them leaders.

TELETECH wants to erase the notion that a call center job is a dead-end job.

The scholarship program covers the whole cost of an MBA program, but excludes application fees and books. Qualified scholars can avail themselves of as much as P200,000 worth of scholarship.

According to Teletech executive director for human resources Isabelle Bales, the MBA scholarship program is open to all employees from the manager level.

The program will accommodate as many employees as possible, as long as they meet certain criteria, including a minimum tenure of 12 months as an employee, with six of those months spent holding a managerial position; a rating of "successful" or better in the last company performance appraisal, and a clean disciplinary record.

An MBA aspirant should also be able to complete the required application forms and entrance essays, pass the MBA entrance exam and the interviews to be conducted by upper management.

"The last item is the most important. During the interviews, managers are asked to look for characteristics that identify above average or promising managerial and leadership potential, academic aptitude, interpersonal and communication skills, and maturity and motivation," Bales says.

While the program now only provides scholarships for those wanting to pursue an MBA degree, she says TeleTech plans to expand it to other areas of specialization, depending on the response and the needs of the employees.

"TeleTech has put in place a career development and succession plan to ensure a steady supply of homegrown managerial talent. Our commitment is this: Once an employee is hired, we embark on a shared responsibility to develop him or her professionally and personally throughout his or her employment at TeleTech," Parekh says.

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Pedicabs: A renaissance

From page B2-1

anchored on sponsorship by corporate advertisers.

"It's impossible to sustain the business only from passenger fares," Klaus Ulbricht, Velotaxi's COO tells visiting journalists from Asia and Africa.

In fact, its founder originally thought of a free passenger vehicle concept but realized over the years that it's not viable to rely on advertising money alone.

It survives cutthroat competition by giving specialized services, such as ferrying tourists and shuttling people during big corporate events.

German model

What allowed Matuszewski's brainchild to take off was a favorable ruling from the German Bundestag, which defined the new vehicle as a bicycle.

The bike was then awarded the right to carry persons above the age of seven years—providing the basis for the tricycle businesses in Germany and the rest of Europe.

Berlin's new-generation pedicab has also found a strong ally in the city's own mayor, Klaus Wowereit, who promotes the concept during his out-of-town trips.

Competitors have mushroomed over the past few years, but most focused on selling similarly designed three-wheelers.

Velotaxi, on the other hand, has set up a licensing/franchising system that helps newbies in Berlin and elsewhere around the world learn the ropes of the business.

Velotaxi, which sells about 150 three-wheelers a year for about 8,300 euros each and has now built a global fleet of nearly 1,000 (of which 40 are in Berlin), then leverages on its network to sell advertising space. The company is run by a handful of yuppies, like Ulbricht, most of whom are good friends of the founder.

"We constantly shifted the business into new directions and led to several new product ideas," Ulbricht said.

"The concept demanded a new form of bike—an original ad—bike that would carry the Velotaxi motto of advertising in motion, he said.

This means scaling up the fleet, selling bikes to third parties and using this fleet network to sell advertising packages.

Velotaxi is now busy exporting the concept to other parts of the globe and helping franchisees seek the local regulations to allow the vehicles to comb major streets.

Velotaxi's parent company Veloform GmBh sells the bikes around the world.

Some foreign clients simply choose to buy the fancy pedicabs and operate their own fleet.

In New York, for instance, there are 50 pedicabs purchased from Veloform that are now plying Manhattan's sightseeing hotspots, alongside Central Park's horse-drawn carriages.

A license from Velotaxi means that: The network can provide additional ferry business through its networking and branding; and, a start-up licensee will get all the help needed to jumpstart the business.

The licensee will have to pay a start-up fee and a yearly license fee.

But 10 years after Velotaxi's establishment, the pioneering company is facing a big challenge: Mapping out its expansion plans.

Ulbricht says Velotaxi has drafted a fresh strategy that calls for diversification, particularly by developing a new family of bikes, including sturdier and lower-cost models that will sell even in Africa.

Velotaxi is also hatching a new business: A "hotel-on-wheels" project offering another novel product—outdoor swimming pools.

VELOTAXIS the Cologne cathedral in Cologne, Germany

Competitive investment promotion packages

MAPping the Future

Cesar B. Bautista

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE LONG-standing issue of incentives rationalization needs to be reviewed to achieve competitiveness.

To do this, a common framework that finds the balance between public policy and private sector interests needs to be found.

The debate has been in progress for the last 13 years, since 1994 when the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP) was conceived.

This debate culminated during the 13th Congress when disparate versions of the bill were introduced and passed in both Chambers. These versions typify the opposing schools of thought on incentives.

House Bill 3295 sought to maintain and expand existing incentives offered to investors, under the assumption that incentives are crucial in the locational decision of investors. On the other hand, Senate Bill 2411 sought to remove income tax holidays and pave the way for a reduced corporate income tax rate for all firms, on allegations of high levels of redundancy.

Redundancy is defined as an investment that would have come into the country even without incentives.

The failure to resolve the issue has created a climate of policy uncertainty. Businessmen do not like that because it affects their long-term business plans and consequently their bottom line.

Their shareholders will wonder why their managers are considering putting money in this country if there are better ways to get returns in other countries.

Incentives–A total package

To arrive at a common framework, both the public and the private sectors are urged to keep an open mind, and keep their eyes on the big picture. A new mind-set is necessary to move the issue forward.

The IFC/World Bank Project Team presented some options that can help us find a middle ground. Let us ponder these options and, assuming we find them acceptable, determine how we can communicate them to our legislators keeping in mind that helping the government sustain its fiscal momentum whilst encouraging investments will benefit us all.

At the end of the day, business wants solid economic fundamentals, the total package of incentives and attractiveness, before it invests in a country.

As businessmen, we know that fiscal incentives alone are not sufficient to attract investors. However, these are only part of the overall equation in attracting investors as government levels the playing field.

Other prerequisites include macroeconomic stability, political stability and good governance, availability of infrastructure, and quality human resources.

We need to address those fundamental factors of competitiveness to have any chance of being attractive to investments. But we also need revenue and innovative schemes to build the roads and bridges and to upgrade our education.

To do that, the private sector would have to fully support the need to ensure proper tax declaration and collection. Instead of more income tax holidays, perhaps more targeted performance-based incentives can be a more effective and efficient tool.

Initial steps have been taken to improve the Philippines' competitiveness. As private sector chair of the National Competitiveness Council (NCC), we ensure that the six working groups are delivering on their priorities.

These working groups include: human resources, effective management, access to finance, infrastructure, energy and reducing transaction costs/flows.

The rationalization of fiscal incentives is a priority of the NCC as it seeks to simplify and reduce the "transaction costs" to existing and new investors.

For example, the complex and inequitable VAT system for exporters needs to be reviewed to ensure that Philippine exporters are not disadvantaged in this competitive global economy. In addition, streamlining the institutional landscape for investment promotion can certainly reduce the "transaction cost" of business.

The World Bank experts talked about the complex, confusing and unclear institutional structures. Their advice to de-couple incentives administration from investment promotion is a concept that NCC is already pursuing in a number of cases.

The PPP approach (Public-Private Partnership) is to work with KEY government agencies and officials to achieve its economic growth objectives. We engage in constructive dialogue and conversation with government so that, instead of being part of the problem, we become part of the solution.

Competitiveness, the only option

In the course of building the country's competitiveness, we are aware that unless this is achieved opportunities for more work and livelihood will remain poor.

Our industry sector continues to shrink as China and others manufacture more than 70 percent of the world's requirement. Not only do our exporter find it difficult to compete overseas—the local market is also being taken over by these manufacturers since tariff barriers are being dismantled.

Agriculture accounts for 40 percent of our workforce but only produce 18 percent of our wealth. Such low productivity is not tenable to achieve competitiveness unless investments in agri-industries/services are increased.

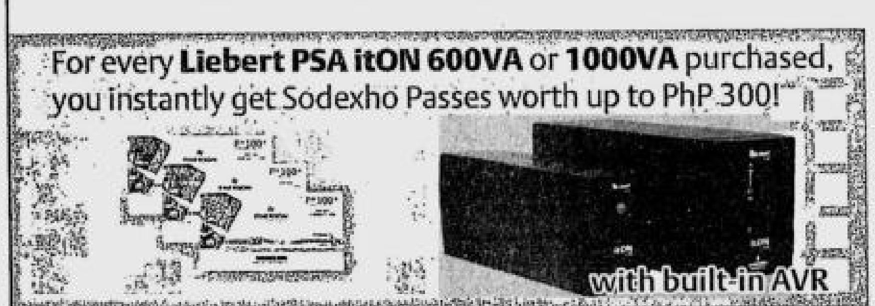
Services are increasing but it is not expected to provide enough opportunities for a nation of 87 million.

The need is for greater country competitiveness to create more jobs and livelihood that offer products and services of global quality and costs.

Investors and entrepreneurs will look at the country's total investment package—infrastructure as well as financial incentives, stability as well as opportunities to bottom line profits and growth.

At the end of the day, the investors will compare Philippines' total package with those of other countries. They will go to wherever they feel is offering their shareholders a sustainably better deal.

(Speech delivered by the author during the June 15, 2007 National Competitiveness Council/International Finance Corporation Roundtable at Hotel Inter-Continental Manila. The author is co-chair of the National Competitiveness Council and Trustee of Institute of Corporate Directors. He previously served as secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)



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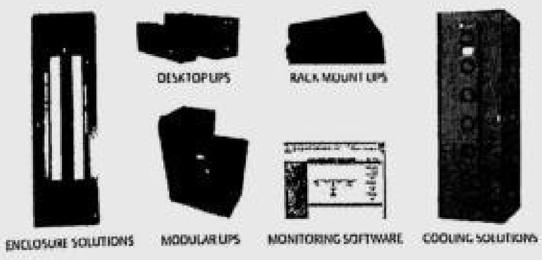

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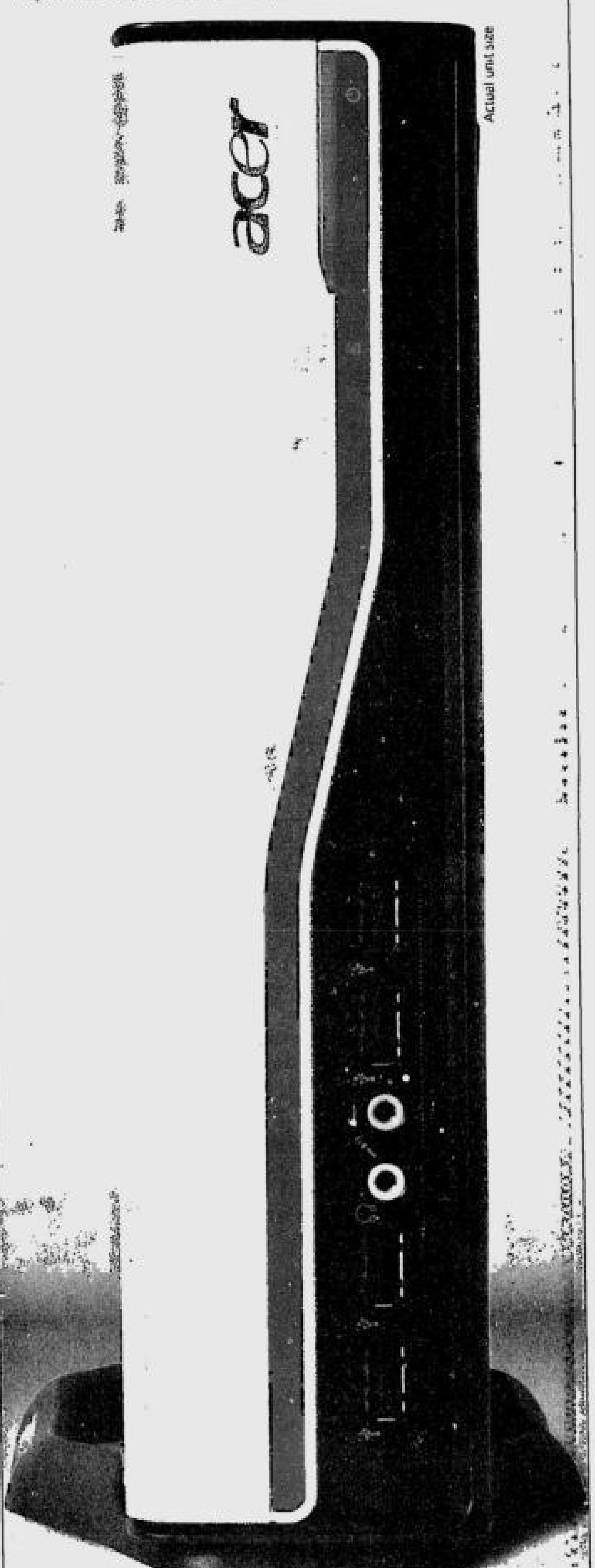

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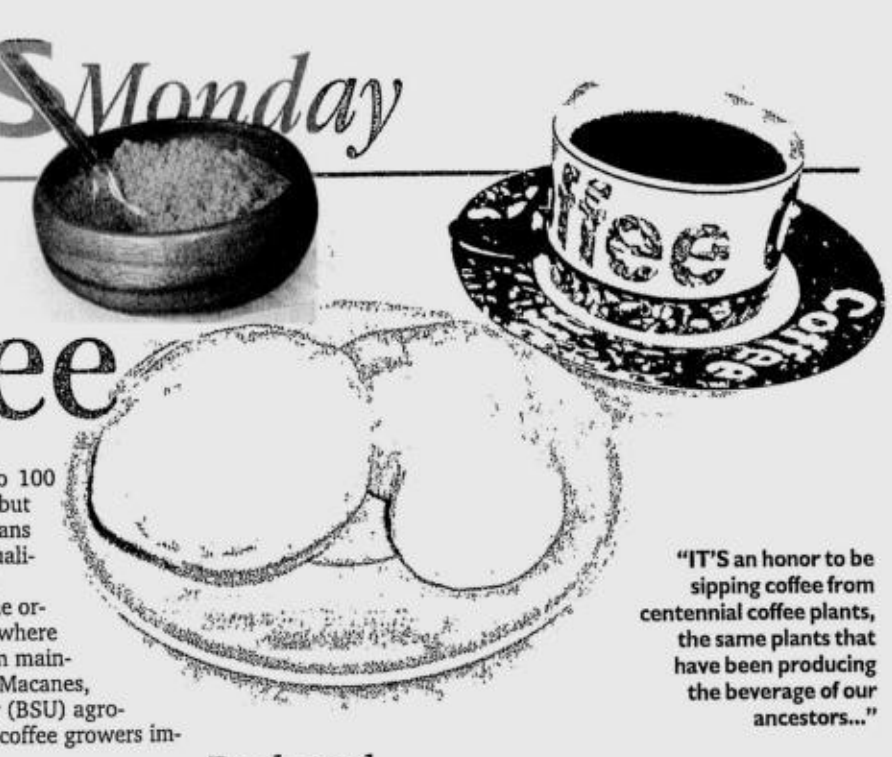
BUSINESS Monday



Benguet folk develop new art of marketing coffee

Text and photos by Maurice Malanes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—This province's Arabica trees are now heavy with green coffee beans.

Growers say these beans will begin to turn red by September and ready to be harvested between October and February. These will later be marketed through a novel method, which has transformed Benguet Arabica trees into "live banks," if not a gold mine.

During harvest, more than 200 Benguet coffee growers—all members of a new homegrown corporation—sort out coffee beans according to the age of the coffee trees.

"This is because we market our Benguet coffee according to principles," says Rudy Guisdan, marketing officer of the Benguet Organic Coffee Arabica Enterprises Limited Inc. (Bocaeli).

The corporation, formed in June 2005, is a cooperative of more than 200 backyard coffee growers who, with the help of local marketing experts, regularly meet to develop ways to market their products.

"We have 'coffee of pride' (coffee beans from trees up to 49 years old), 'coffee of privilege' (beans from 50- to 75-year-old trees), and 'coffee of prestige' (75- to 99-year-old trees)," says Guisdan.

"The most expensive is our 'coffee of honor,' which comes from 100-year-old or older trees," he adds.

The prices vary according to age.

A kilogram of ground coffee of pride sells at P300; coffee of privilege, P350; coffee of prestige, P400; and coffee of honor, P450.

What's the philosophy or rationale behind the classification of Benguet Arabica coffee according to age?

"It's definitely an honor to be sipping coffee from centennial coffee plants, which are the same organically grown plants that have been producing the beverage of our ancestors, and more and more clients are getting to appreciate this," says Guisdan.

If coffee trees are 50 to 100 years old and even older but still bearing fruit, this means they have good genetic qualities.

"They resist pests and the organic contents of the soil where they are planted have been maintained well," says Valentin Macanes, a Benguet State University (BSU) agroforestry professor helping coffee growers improve their production.

"IT'S an honor to be sipping coffee from centennial coffee plants, the same plants that have been producing the beverage of our ancestors..."

Backyard coffee growers bring new blends to the market

Priced heirlooms

Gerry Lab-oyan, president of the New Benguet Chamber of Commerce, a group that also helps promote local Arabica coffee, considers the century-old coffee trees of Benguet as "priced heirlooms."

These centennial plants, he says, can be the local folk's "live banks" because the plants, which belong to the Typica Arabica variety, are actually rare.

Originally from Ethiopia, the Typica Arabica variety was brought to Benguet by Spanish colonizers who forced local folk to plant the coffee species along a trail.

Typica Arabica was introduced in Sagada, Mt. Province by noted Cordillera photographer Eduardo Masferre, whose family in Spain maintained orchards.

In the 1970s, the Bureau of Plant Industry and a private agricultural firm introduced to the Cordillera other Arabica varieties such as Bourbon Arabica, Moka and Granika, among others.

There are 30 different Arabica species but Macanes says the most aromatic is the Typica Arabica, and it also has the lowest caffeine content.

The advantage of Benguet and neighboring Mt. Province and Ifugao is their altitude considering that Arabica coffee thrives well at 700 to 2,000 meters above sea level.

To support Benguet coffee growers, Macanes, with the help of the BSU, has pledged to help establish a germplasm bank for Typica Arabica, especially from century-old mother plants, to ensure the continuous propagation and to help improve the production of this species.

Backyard industry

Maintaining and sustaining Benguet's decades-old and centennial coffee plants are the main reasons local growers are being encouraged to maintain the backyard coffee industry.

A multinational food firm once attempted to contract local farmers for large-scale production. This did not work, however, because big-scale production required wide swaths of land for coffee plantation.

"Although introduced, Arabica or what is now popularly called Benguet coffee has become part of local culture and has since been grown along with other backyard crops such as banana and other fruits. It is still best to maintain Benguet coffee this way," says Richard Abellon of the Office of Presidential Affairs in the Cordillera, which is helping local coffee growers in terms of research and promotion.

"We do not encourage plantations because people have to deforest a mountain for these and mono-culture farming is not environmentally sound," he says.

"We seek to help sustain the biodiversity and cultural integrity of Benguet and other coffee-producing towns in the Cordillera," he adds.

Macanes says Costa Rica and Colombia, which are among the world's top coffee producers, rely on backyard producers.

"Their only secret is that these small backyard producers are federated into cooperatives or local corporations," he says.

Appropriate technology

To help improve the production of Arabica coffee in Benguet, Abellon's office is seeking to mobilize the expertise of the BSU and the Department of Agriculture to help coffee growers integrate appropriate technology with their "indigenous sociocultural practices" in producing Arabica.

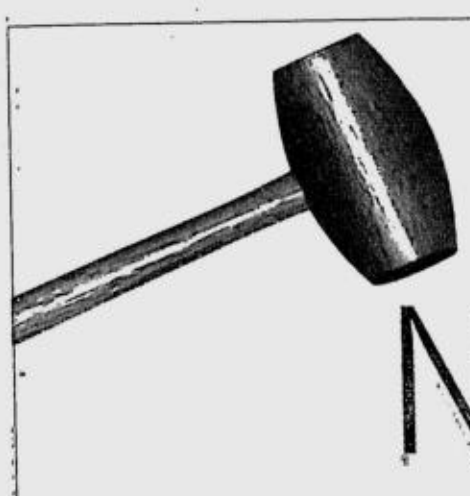
The market potential for coffee remains high, says Abellon, noting that coffee beans are still being imported because the country cannot meet local demand.

"The production in Benguet and other Cordillera provinces is not even enough to meet the needs of Baguio City where coffee shops are multiplying," he says.

The more than 200 members of Bocaeli produce a combined 10,000 kg of ready-to-roast coffee beans each year and their produce is always sold out, Guisdan says.

Coffee growers who have maintained and preserved their decades and century-old trees are now appreciating what kind of gold mine they have, he says.

COOPERATIVE markets organic coffee by highlighting the source



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HARRY Potter's "only family," Sirius Black (Gary Oldman)

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Rise of the 'Phoenix'

By Ruel S. De Vera

RISING TO HIS FULL HEIGHT TO face his terrible adversary, Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe), injured but intact, seethes with righteous anger and courage—and the audience can't help but be amazed at how much he has grown up.

That is the exact same reaction audiences will have when it comes to Warner Bros' "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," the fifth motion picture based on J.K. Rowling's spellbindingly successful series of novels. Perhaps the most impressive feat of magic on view here is how the Hogwarts series grows up from adaptation into a full-fledged movie franchise by itself.

Looking forward to his fifth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, Harry finds that his life in Privet Drive is beset by supernatural attacks and silence from his friends. He is rescued by the Order of the Phoenix, a secret band of magic-users who are preparing to battle the resurrected Lord Voldemort (a noseless Ralph Fiennes), and brought to the London home of his godfather, the fugitive Sirius Black (ever-excellent Gary Oldman).

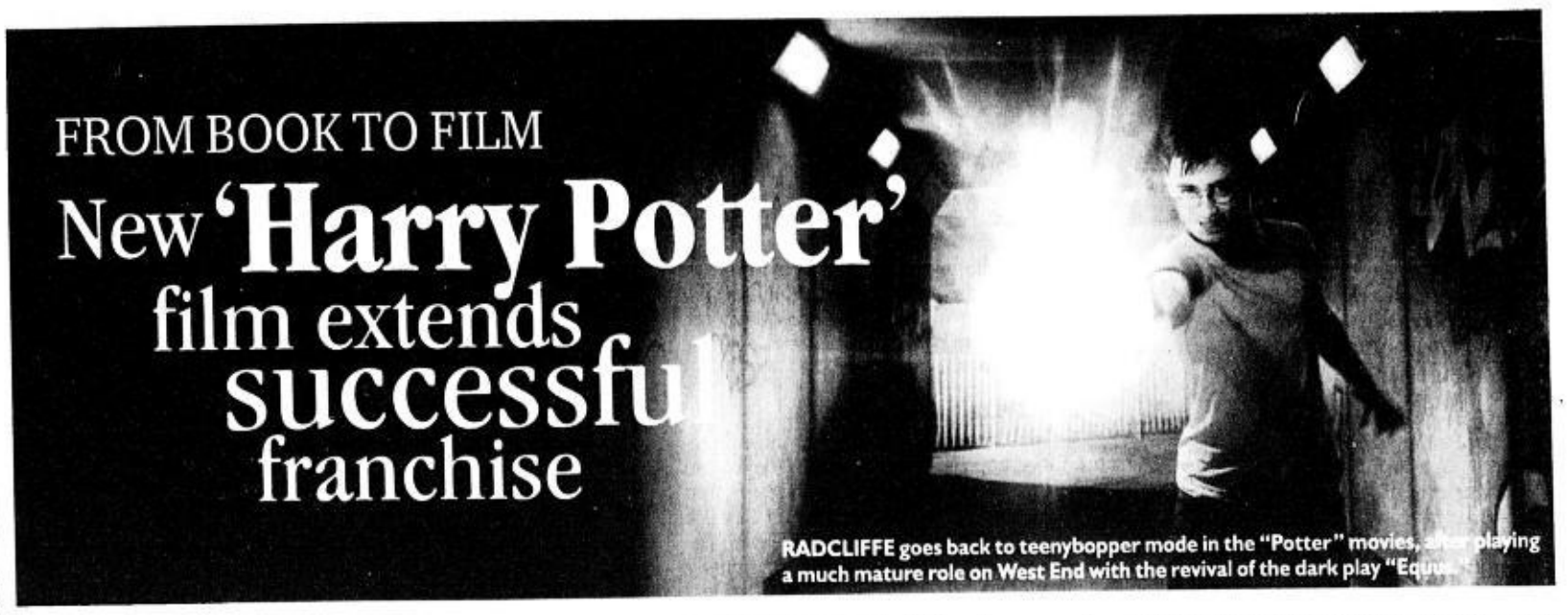
Harry discovers that the Ministry of Magic refuses to believe that the Dark Lord has returned and now suspects Hogwarts headmaster Albus Dumbledore (Michael Gambon) of plotting to take over the Ministry.

All this means Harry, still reeling from the events of "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," returns to Hogwarts under the constant harassment of new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher—and Ministry plant—Dolores Umbridge ("Vera Drake's" Imelda Staunton). Trouble comes to Hogwarts as Harry faces torture, intrigue, the threat of expulsion, isolation and the Dark Lord's designs.

By movie's end, the veiled struggle between the Death Eaters and the Order comes to an explosive head, and Harry stands to lose far more than he bargained for.

Wielding the wands this time is a new creative tandem, award-winning British TV director David Yates and screenwriter Michael Goldenberg ("Contact"). More than sleight-of-hand was necessary to transform the 896-page "Phoenix" (the thickest of all the "Harry Potter" tomes) into a two-hour-and-18-minute film (the

RISE/ C2



FROM BOOK TO FILM

New 'Harry Potter' film extends successful franchise

RADCLIFFE goes back to teenybopper mode in the "Potter" movies, after playing a much mature role on West End with the revival of the dark play "Equus."

By Marc Laurenze Celis
Contributor

IN "HARRY POTTER AND THE Order of the Phoenix," the boy wizard grows up to face the dreadful truth and his dark destiny.

It is in this fifth cinematic outing of J.K. Rowling's saga that Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) painfully begins to understand the battle with evil that lies ahead as he enters his fifth year at Hogwarts, with the whole wizarding community in denial about the teenager's recent encounter with the evil Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes), preferring to turn a blind eye to the news that "He Who Must Not Be Named" has, in fact, returned.

Fearing that Hogwarts' venerable headmaster, Albus Dumbledore (Michael Gambon), is lying about Voldemort's return in order to undermine his power and take over his job, the Minister for Magic, Cornelius Fudge (Robert Hardy), appoints a new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher to keep watch over Dumbledore and the Hogwarts students.

But the Ministry-approved course of defensive magic by the new teacher, Professor Dolores Umbridge (Imelda Staunton), leaves the young wizards woefully unprepared to defend themselves against the dark forces threatening them and the entire wizard community.

Pushed by his friends Hermione Granger (Emma Watson) and Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint), Harry takes matters into his own hands and teaches a small group of students who secretly meet under the name Dumbledore's Army. They constitute themselves into a defensive force against the Dark Arts.

Radcliffe all grown up

The acting skills of Radcliffe, Grint and Watson have improved, but not to the point that they can truly flesh out their characters

ACTOR Daniel Radcliffe matures as Potter.

The longest among seven books, 'Order of the Phoenix' is the shortest in the film series. But it still entertains and provide the emotional depth this transitional, plot-driven film needs. This is aside from the fact that at almost 18, the three actors are beginning to look a bit old to pass for the 15-year-olds they are supposed to portray. (In 2010's "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," they will be 21-year-olds playing 17-year-olds!)

As for the newcomers, they acquit themselves admirably. Particular mention should be made of Staunton. As the ruthless Dolores Umbridge, she comes up with a great new villainess.

Although a bit far from the way Umbridge is described in the novel, Staunton's fake smiles and giggles while adorned in a kitschy pink wardrobe excuse the abridgement, and

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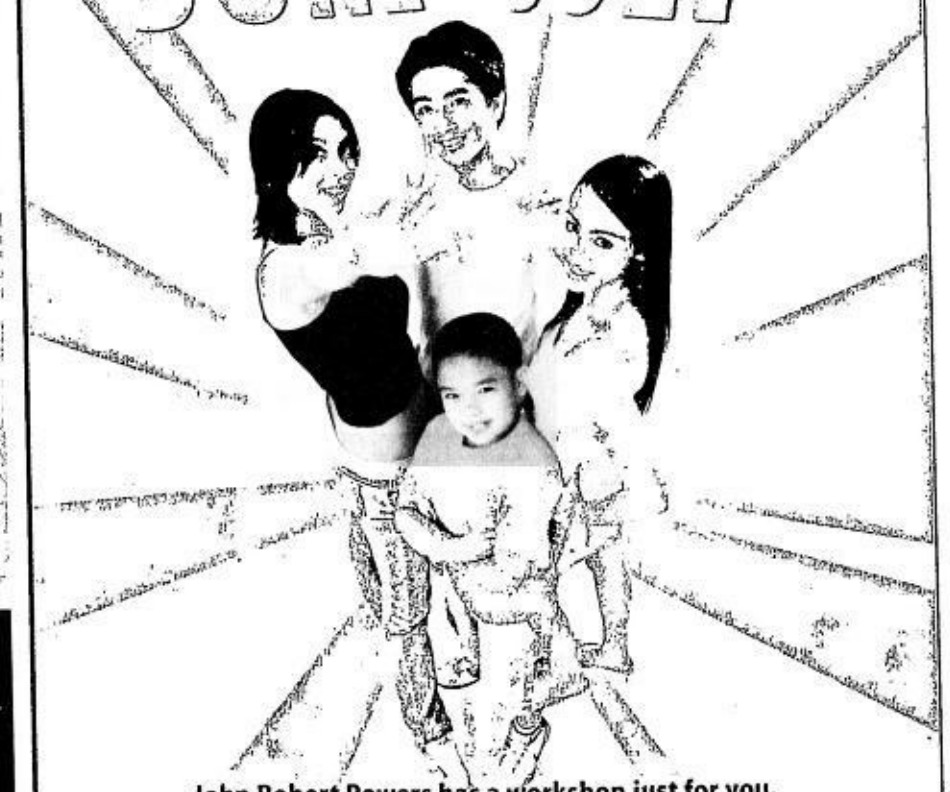

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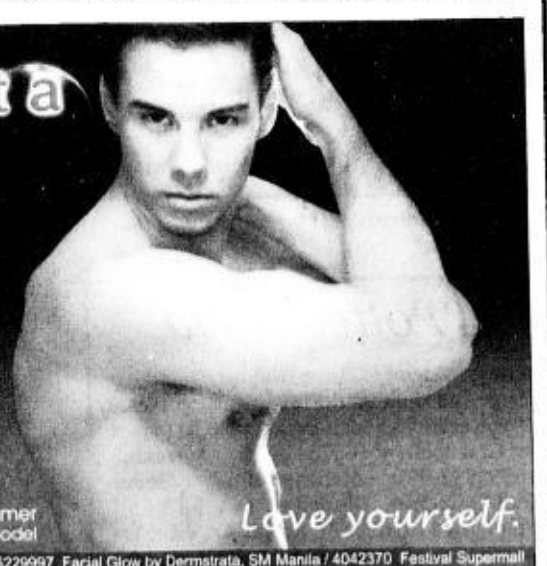

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THE BLACK house elf, Kreacher (Timothy Bateson), proves to be a descendant of the Black heritage as he swindled his own master's life.

BROUGHT to life by actor Ralph Fiennes, Tom Marvolo Riddle or Lord Voldemort carefully plots against Harry as the Ministry of Magic expresses disbelief of his alleged return.

VOLDEMORT'S possession of Harry Potter

New 'Harry Potter' film extends . . .

From page C1

she takes her place among the great grand inquisitors. She's so good that she practically steals the movie. Truly, pink is the new black.

Though too pretty for her role, Evanna Lynch, who makes her acting debut as Luna Lovegood, gives her character the right amount of looniness and offbeat wisdom. But she has too much exposure in the movie, more than that of Ron and Hermione put in together.

Helena Bonham Carter plays the villainous Bellatrix Lestrange, the one who placed the curse on Longbottom's parents. She is a shining presence but an underused talent in this film.

With a few minor exceptions, most of the actors are almost criminally underutilized as they bravely do the best they can with the small amount of screen time they have at their disposal. Blink, and you may miss Ron and Hermione, for instance.

Director David Yates has inserted some lovely touches, including the Weasley twins' explosive transfer from the world of academia to the world of retail. But overall, there is a shortage of those joyful little glimpses of the wizarding world's appurtenances that punctuated and perked up the previous films.

The fifth is the longest of the seven-book series, but it is ironic that of the "Potter" movies this is the shortest. Much is not explained, and much is left hanging. Despite its length, the book was engrossing; it pulled it off because it was tantalizing in what it didn't tell us. In contrast, the movie failed to tell us more about what the book did and didn't tell.

But where's Quidditch?

Not a second of the film is devoted to the game of Quidditch, where at last Ron plays for Hogwarts and Harry gets thrown off on Umbridge's orders. (In contrast; scenes like the Grawp, where Ron wasn't supposed to be, could have been shot with him probably as a consolation.)

Everyone who read the book would expect the statues in the fountain to move in Dumbledore and Voldemort's duel, but would be quite disappointed that the detail is not included in the movie.

In Harry's possession scene, the lines vastly differ from the book. Even the lines delivered by the Dark Lord have been removed, probably to visualize the flashbacks of Harry's experience for the past four years. Somehow, the scenes fail to live up visually to the literary magic of the book.

Be that as it may, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" is good entertainment for anyone eager to bask in the magic of the "Harry Potter" movie franchise. Problem is, one expects more than simply "good" when it comes to this particular installment. One expects "great."

You see, a funny thing happened on the way to "Harry Potter" 5. In contrast to other movie franchises, almost each new entry to the "Potter" series actually improves on the previous one. "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" proved to be better than the first in the series; and the third installment, 2004's "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," nudged the series into a "darker," less kid-friendly territory.

While "Azkaban" is probably still the best film in the series, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" built on "Azkaban's" legacy and was a worthy entry in itself.

"Order of the Phoenix" follows Rowling's style of increasing the dimensions of darkness for every installment. But the new film does not really let the audience's imagination soar as what the previous two films did. Maybe it's because an aura of familiarity hangs over the whole story by this time.

Still entertaining

Perhaps, too, the fault lies with new director Yates' approach. Action scenes are often staged awkwardly while the set design and special effects often have a humdrum and flat feeling about them. Cinematographer Slawomir Idziak's color palette occasionally seems uninspired.

The production designer of all "Potter" films, Stuart Craig, contributes again quite a few imaginative sets to this film. But it seems at times Yates seems unclear how to utilize these sets properly.

One is left to wonder what a more visionary director such as Guillermo del Toro, the man behind "Hellboy" and "Pan's Labyrinth," could have accomplished with the same material. (Del Toro's name constantly pops up as the next "Potter" movie director, but he seems to have been always bypassed. He was, in fact, the first to be offered "Azkaban," but he turned it down in order to direct "Hellboy," so the third "Potter" film went to fellow Mexican Alfonso Cuaron, who did a fine job.)

At times, one cannot help but wish the film could spend more time on the plot and the characters. Readers familiar with the next book in the series know, for instance, that the loyalties and allegiances of a minor character will play a key role. But this particular character is almost given short shrift in "Phoenix."

THE MINISTRY of Magic's denial of Voldemort's return proves to be an additional threat to Harry's existence as well as those in the Order of the Phoenix.

BOTH born from Order of the Phoenix couples, Neville (Matthew Lewis) and Harry will have to face the Dark Lord again.

"THESTRAL" VIEW. What Harry Potter and Luna Lovegood (Evanna Lynch) share in common is their death experience, enabling them to see the invisible reptilian horses.

VILLAIN IN PINK. Harry's newest adversary, Dolores Umbridge (Imelda Staunton), is chased by the Weasley twins' prank.

RON, Harry and Hermione are on their fifth year in Hogwarts.

But let there be no mistaking it: "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" is definitely worth your time. It shows that the "Potter" universe is still powerful, where one can fully immerse oneself in, imaginatively and intellectually. Unlike many movie franchises, "Harry Potter" has so far not overstayed its welcome. It is still wonderfully entertaining.

Of course, if you're new to the whole "Potter" thing, then a visit to your local video shop is recommended so you can check out the previous installments. Otherwise, you'd be pretty much lost as this film's events follow immediately those that happened in "Goblet of Fire."

Good, but not great. Still, that probably won't matter as fans will have the last "Harry Potter" book to console them in the weeks to come. And then there are the last two films in the next two years . . .

Rise of the 'Phoenix'

A new director brings screen magic to "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," conjuring up the best Harry Potter movie yet.

From page C1

shortest in the series), yet Yates and company managed the feat with aplomb, streamlining the book's Hagrid-size narrative.

What this means for Potter purists, however, is that much of the book is jettisoned to concentrate on Harry and the Order's search for the Death Eaters, leading to the fact that there is no Quidditch at all in this film. The result is that "Phoenix" carries a whole new bounce with it, a vibration unlike that found in any of the first four films, instead inspiring a feeling more akin to landmark fantasy such as Wolfgang Petersen's underrated 1984 epic, "The Neverending Story."

A directorial Patronus charm come to life, Yates confidently opens up the camera's eye together with cinematographer Swalomir Idziak ("Black Hawk Down"), expanding the Hogwarts panorama, flowing from one shot to another in a natural fashion.

The venerable John Williams is no longer providing the musical score. Instead, frequent Yates collaborator Nicholas Hooper steps in, and does a thoroughly amazing job, incorporating hints of Williams' work into a solid, full-bodied and notably distinctive orchestral score for "Phoenix." Put all that into the same potion, and, for the first time, it feels like the "Harry Potter" movies have a filmic identity of their own.

"Phoenix" clearly marks a turning point in the Potter mythos as many of the previous performers return. Yates somehow manages to parcel out precious screen time to the talented ensemble, thus enabling most of the supporting players a distinctive moment to chew some scenery, be it Alan Rickman's Severus Snape, Jason Isaacs' Lucius Malfoy, or Emma Thompson's Sybil Trelawney.

The tradeoff is that there is a noticeable reduction in the scenes, including series favorites Rupert Grint and Emma Watson, though the sequences they are in display a more natural, lighter vibe. That's not a howler, however, as "Phoenix," actually gains momentum from the excellent additions to the sprawling cast, be they experienced (Helena Bonham Carter as the deranged Bellatrix Lestrange) or neophyte (Evanna Lynch as the cooky Luna Lovegood).

But the addition that tears up the most Hogwarts landscaping is Staunton as Umbridge. Deploying a passive-aggressive mean streak camouflaged behind a little laugh, Staunton proves that there is more to fear than the Death Eaters, and that pink can, indeed, be a terrifying color.

Being that his character's name is in the movie's title, Radcliffe must still carry this film, and carry it he does. With a shorter haircut and more defiantly defined jaw, Radcliffe's Harry is angry and hurting but also determined and daring as he faces down romance (with Katie Leung's still nondescript Cho Chang), violence and loss.

DISMISSED for the second time as Hogwarts head master, Albus Dumbledore (Michael Gambon), takes on Lord Voldemort on a duel in the Ministry of Magic.

As the series progresses, Radcliffe is steadily appearing in the dragon's share of scenes, and he seems to have now stepped up to the challenge of being the franchise's fearless face, and it shows.

The stakes are also much higher, as one can see from the spectacular wizard-versus-wizard climax, with all the pyrotechnics and eye candy possible. This is how a magic showdown should look like, a kinetic communion between camera acrobatics and visual-effect virtuosity.

Yates also knows when to play it straight, as the painful tragedy at the heart of "Phoenix" is handled simply and straightforwardly, everybody hitting all the right notes.

That development and the renewed vigor running through every scene proves that the Harry Potter series may just have found its definitive director, and producer David Heyman seems to feel the same way: Yates will helm the sixth film, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," due in 2008.

David Yates has given us a wondrous getting-to-know-you gift: "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," the best Harry Potter movie yet, as well as the unspoken revelation that there is much, much more magic in this franchise than even we can imagine.

Warner Bros.' "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" opens in Metro Manila theaters on July 11.

DUMBLEDORE'S Army. Not your ordinary wizarding class, students from different Hogwarts houses unite in the face of an "Umbridge attack."

WITCHES and wizards crowd the Ministry of Magic, heralding the Dark Lord's return.

Fun, suspenseful wait for final book of 'Potter' saga

THE POWERBOOKS COUNTDOWN TO the release of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" starts with the Muggle Magic Digital Contests. Until July 12, fans are invited to unleash their imagination and artistry by creating Harry Potter artworks with the use of digital technology.

In the Harry Potter Book Club Discussions, the first three books will be discussed on July 13, books 4-6 the next day.

July 14 will see the Triwizard Tournament set in PowerBooks Greenbelt, where challengers can show off their Harry Potter knowledge.

July 21 marks the release of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows." All PowerBooks branches will open at exactly 7:01 a.m. to welcome book buyers, who can walk through the Hogwarts Great Hall in PowerBooks Greenbelt.

The day's festivities continue with the Afternoon Launch Party, Kiddie Quidditch Game and Hunt for the Missing Horcruxes.

PowerBooks Specialty Store has branches at Greenbelt 4 (7576428-29); Megamall (6352898-99); Alabang Town Center (8505662-63); Glorietta 3 (7527075); Shangri-La (6380023); Robinson's Place Ermita (5233334/5243448); Mall of Asia (5560244); Festival Supermall (8508221); and TriNoma (9431581-82).

Johann Strauss Society mounts classical concert

THE JOHANN STRAUSS Society of the Philippines (JSSP) is staging a dinner-dance concert on July 12, 6:30 p.m., at the ballroom of Mandarin Oriental, Manila.

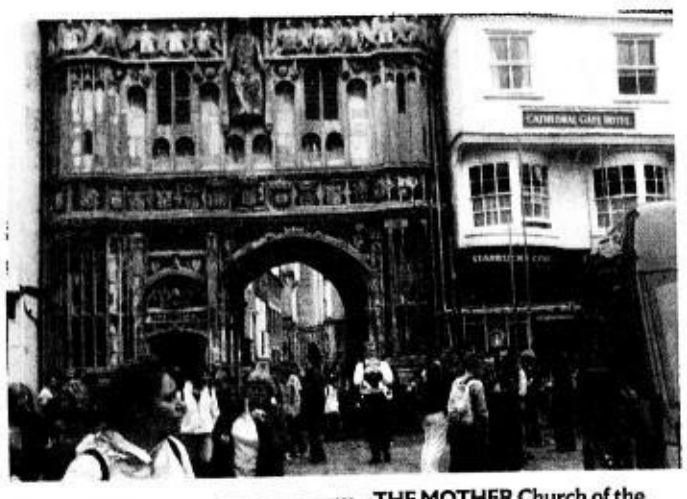
The concert features Ernest Hoetzl, a cultural ambassador of Austria, who will play Mozart's Fantasy in D Minor and accompany the Philippines' premier soprano Rachelle Gerodias and noted tenor Lemuel de la Cruz, who will perform solo and duet numbers including "Libiamo" from Verdi's "La Traviata;" "Lippen Schweigen" from Franz Lehar's "The Merry Widow;" "Adele's Laughing Song" from Strauss' "Die Fledermaus;" "Signore Ascolta" from Puccini's "Turandot;" "Granada" by Agustin Lara.

Ambassador Herbert Jaeger of the Republic of Austria and JSSP founder and president emeritus Kay Siazon will induct the JSSP officers and board of directors: Letty Syquia (chair); Fortune Aleta Ledesma (president); Olga Severino Martel and Helmut Gaisberger (vice presidents); Agnes Huibonhoa (secretary); Charisse Chuidian (assistant secretary); Fanny Blanco (treasurer); Marge Ortiz Luis (assistant treasurer); and Betty Chua, Cristina Belton, Chit Gohu, Johnny Litton, Mila How, Mike Varela, George Yang, Rod Cornejo and Eddie Yap (directors).

The board of advisers is composed of Jaeger, Imelda Cojuangco, Mely Hechanova, Sen. Jamby Madrigal, Susie Ortigas, Washington Sycip and Nedy Tantoco.

Call 7508888 local 2222.

ERNEST Hoetzl



THE MOTHER Church of the worldwide Anglican Communion is a Gothic structure built over the original abbey constructed by St. Augustine in 597 AD.

CANTERBURY is among three top pilgrimage destinations in Europe since the Middle Ages.

The spirit . . .

From page C4

on our first night, the Chapter of the Cathedral took us inside the dark church, distributed candles, and walked us through the empty, silent church by candlelight, told us its history and why it was so special to him, for us an unforgettable experience.

Our Canterbury days found ourselves being drawn to the cathedral, taking solitary, quiet walks around its cloisters, gardens and crypts; attending Holy Communion in the mornings and evensong at dusk; listening to the church choir; guesting at an organ concert; and an invitation to a rare performance of Haydn's "Nelson Mass" complete with symphony orchestra and chorus that we had to miss one Sunday morning because of a schedule conflict.

The imposing cathedral ensemble, its architecture, art, gardens and cloisters, is totally worthy of its World Heritage designation. The constant stream of pilgrims provides the historical link to St. Augustine; the 1170 murder of Becket; the literary bond to Chaucer; and protecting the structure from World War II bombings.

Anglican rites and rituals, basically unchanged over the centuries, accompanied by soaring ecclesiastical music, give life and purpose to the cavernous cathedral. More than being just an empty architectural ensemble, Canterbury has life. It has spirit.

The Very Reverend Robert Willis, dean of Canterbury Cathedral, explained the continuing belief since the Benedictine origins of Canterbury in 597 AD that all visitors were considered pilgrims to be welcomed by both religious and secular communities. Even today, the Canterbury experience is simultaneously religious and secular.

Outside the cathedral gate is Canterbury town, a collection of varied architecture dating from the medieval through the fairly recent connected by a network of narrow streets filled with shops, restaurants, pubs, small hotels and a mob of summer tourists everywhere.

This is where the secular activities of the pilgrims took place. For centuries, the town must have always been this way, crowded, extending hospitality to visitors, feeding and lodging them, and selling keepsakes for taking home. Looking just what a tropical person like me would expect an exotic old English town to be, the place had postcard charm and the usual tourist commercialism, but nevertheless an undeniable presence.

What is the spirit of place in Canterbury? It is felt in the everyday religious and secular lives of its residents and pilgrims. Since 597 AD, its people have practiced the Benedictine traditions of pilgrimage and hospitality without interruption, its community continually working together, dealing with its old structures, finding solutions to problems with containing, housing and feeding huge numbers of pilgrims (now called tourists) who create the same headaches today as they did during the days of Thomas Becket or Chaucer.

Spirit of place, as manifest in Canterbury, is an intangible quality that not all places have. It is a personal experience manifesting differently for each individual and enjoyed in his own way.

The spirit of Canterbury is in the sung grandeur of the "Nelson" Mass. It sits quietly in the cathedral nave, or noisily downs pints of local beer in a pub with other pilgrims.

We found the spirit of Canterbury in practically everything we did. We came as committee members for a yearly meeting but unknowingly became pilgrims, participated in church activities, spent free time in local pubs where we shared our stories like pilgrims did centuries ago, recorded by Chaucer in "Canterbury Tales."

As we did what pilgrims to Canterbury had always done, gathering in one place to experience a bond of body, mind, and spirit, we found that spirit of place was an intangible, humanizing characteristic that tied into the story of a place and gave it life. What would places be without the people who carry on their distinctive life and traditions within them?

Heritage watch

Remember the Jai Alai? On July 15, 2000, we saw the demolition of one of Asia's finest Art Deco buildings, the Jai Alai Building on Taft Avenue in Manila, an event that placed heritage into the Philippine mainstream.

Far Eastern University campus tours are finally on! The exceptional Manila-style Art Deco campus has a collection of outstanding Philippine art; and it was among the Unesco Asia-Pacific Cultural Heritage awardees in 2005. The campus is normally accessible only to FEU students. Ivan ManDy can take you there but you must book at www.oldmanilawalks.com.

E-mail feedback to pride.place@gmail.com

VISUAL ARTS

Merrill at Power Plant

Yellow Door Gallery and Power Plant Mall present "Divine Design," by Mark Merrill, July 9-15 at the Rockwell 1 Corridor, Lifestyles Wing, Power Plant Mall, Makati City. The exhibit features a collection of paintings and tapestries. The compositional tool called Golden Mean or the Fibonacci theory is the foundation of every Mark Merrill painting, meticulously drawn with graphite before paint is applied. Sometimes left exposed, the composition lends a very architectural feel. Delicate yet powerful, his paintings also show a pattern used for centuries called Divine Order, which is also evident in his paintings, and from which the exhibit derives its name. Call 0920-9624347.

"ORCHIDS, Dalawa," by Mark Merrill

Olazo at SM Art Center

Renaissance Gallery mounts an anniversary show featuring four decades of Romulo Olazo. The show opened recently at the Art Center of SM Megamall and features works from the artist's rich collection of drawings and paintings in all media and sizes. It shows the versatility and flexibility of the artist in all aspects of wall-bound art. Olazo also has another show in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Call 6373101 or 0917-8361099.

"TARSIER," by Sam Penaso

Penaso at Renaissance

Boholano artist Sam Penaso will present his new abstract works in his seventh solo show, "Boholandia," July 10-19 at Renaissance Gallery (SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City). Penaso's abstract paintings are a new development in the artist's creative evolution. His textured metallic colors, whether scored in patterns or randomly gashed, speak of transformation, restrained self-determination and understatement.

Photoethnographic exhibit at Vargas

The UP Jorge B. Vargas Museum and Filipiniana Research Center will open "Capul, Palingnga Kaw?" on 3/F, Landing Gallery, July 10 at 5 p.m. The exhibition will feature photographs taken by anthropologist Francisco A. Datar during his fieldwork at as well as some ethnographic materials loaned from the island-town of Capul in Northern Samar. Strategically located at the entrance (or exit) of San Bernardino Strait, what the Spaniards called the Embocadero, Capul island is the last galleon stop before sailing to the Pacific, and the first stop coming in. The name Capul, according to local oral history, is an abbreviated form of Acapulco.

"Capul, Palingnga Kaw?" (literally "Capul, where are you going?") shows the Abaknon of today as influenced by three local cultures—Abaknon, Agta and Waray—and the early Spanish presence on the island (Capul church is one of the earliest built in the country), creating a culture distinctly separate from the surrounding islands of Bicol and Samar. Their uniqueness as an ethnolinguistic group will be featured in the photographs. The exhibit will run until Oct. 27. Call 9281927, or e-mail vargasmuseum@gmail.com.

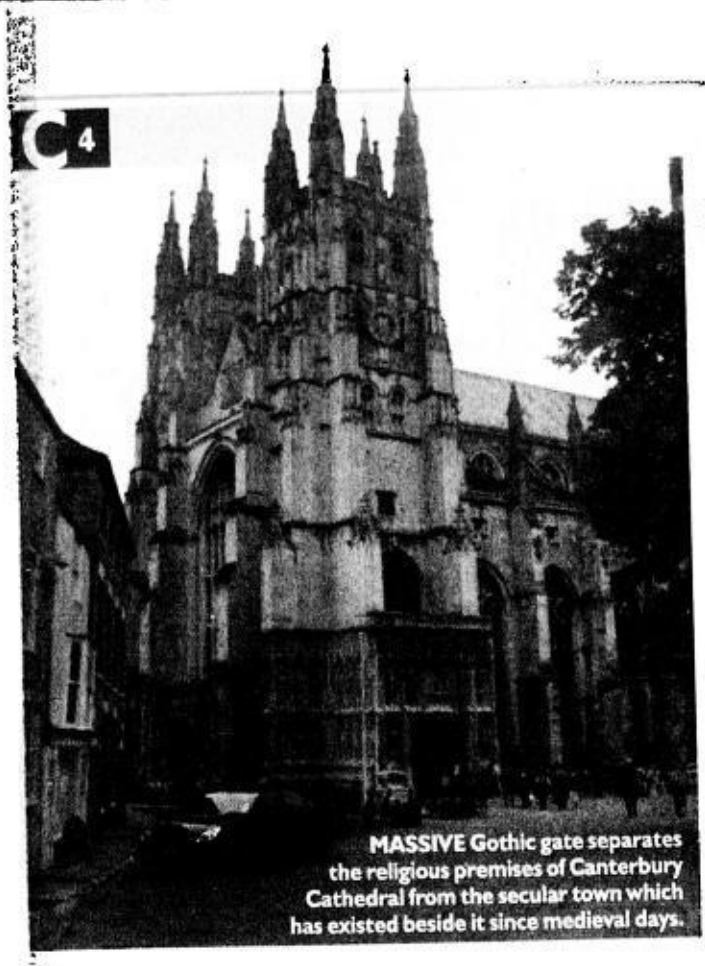
Seminar on immigration

T&T IMMIGRATION Consultants presents "Immigration Strategy Series 1: US and Canada Immigration Overview," with Michael Templo as speaker. The seminar is set July 14, 2-5 p.m., at the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

MICHAEL Templo

The seminar will be about the various ways you can visit, study, work or migrate to the US and Canada and learn the best options to achieve your goals. It will also cover interviewing skills to increase your chances of making a good impression with the consul and increasing your chances of approval.

Templo specializes on immigration and litigation cases in NY. He is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association; New York State Bar Association; New York State Trial Lawyers Association; and New York Country Lawyers Association. Call 8935964, 0916-4909715 or visit www.templolaw.com.



MASSIVE Gothic gate separates the religious premises of Canterbury Cathedral from the secular town which has existed beside it since medieval days.

CONTINUING the long local tradition of providing hospitality for pilgrims, Canterbury town provides lodging, food and activities for visitors.

TO INSTANTLY sober up drunken pilgrims, a dunking chair survives in a pub next to the river.

PRIDE OF PLACE
Augusto Villalon

The spirit of Canterbury

The imposing cathedral ensemble, its architecture, art, gardens and cloisters, is totally worthy of its World Heritage designation

THE WEATHER HAD JUST TURNED into the gentle, early June days of English summer when we gathered at Canterbury in Kent for the annual meeting of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (Icomos) Committee for Cultural Tourism, whose members are international heritage-conservation practitioners involved in cultural tourism.

Invited by colleagues from Icomos-UK, over 30 members of our committee assembled to find, and hopefully to define, the elusive "spirit of place" that bestows distinctive character to some, but unfortunately not to all, historical sites or monuments.

The instant my taxi drove to the cathedral precinct where we were to stay, Canterbury Cathedral overwhelmed, captured my attention and took over my entire range of vision. Flanks of flying buttresses fastened its soaring stone walls to the earth below, while Gothic spires pierced the heavens. An enormous, graceful, meticulously detailed structure, the cathedral loomed over everything, definitely a dominating presence.

The presence intensified upon entering the cathedral. Beyond the main entrance, visitors' eyes catch rows of arched stone colonnades supporting lofty vaulted ceilings. When gaze drops, directs toward the main altar, the absolute center of the cathedral standing a level above main floor, wonder turns into respect for the long tradition maintained by this place.

Cathedral spaces flow into each other in a propelling arrangement that encourages visitors to walk around, drawing them on a pilgrimage to a succession of holy areas that Canterbury is known for.

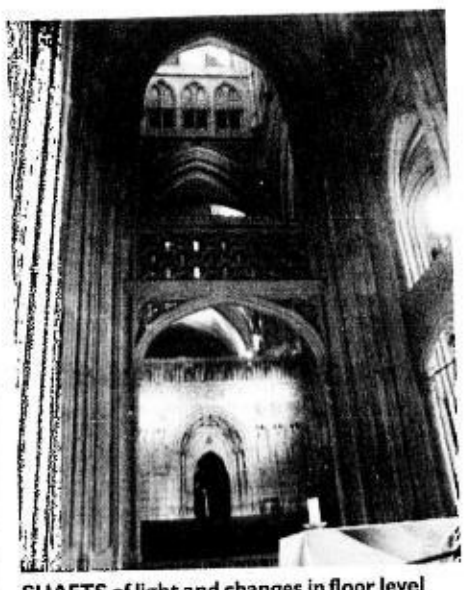
Panels of brilliant medieval stained-glass windows, considered among the best in Europe, illuminate the chapels along the visitors' processional path of statues, reliquaries, commemorative wall plaques, royal sarcophagi, crypts, archbishops' tombs and the central shrine of St. Thomas Becket.

In 597 AD, the missionary St. Augustine, the first Archbishop of Canterbury, established the cathedral that evolved into the Mother Church of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The 1170 murder of Thomas Becket inside Canterbury Cathedral set into motion a pilgrim flow that continues to this day, making Canterbury, Santiago de Compostela in Spain and St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican the three principal pilgrimage destinations in Europe since the Middle Ages.

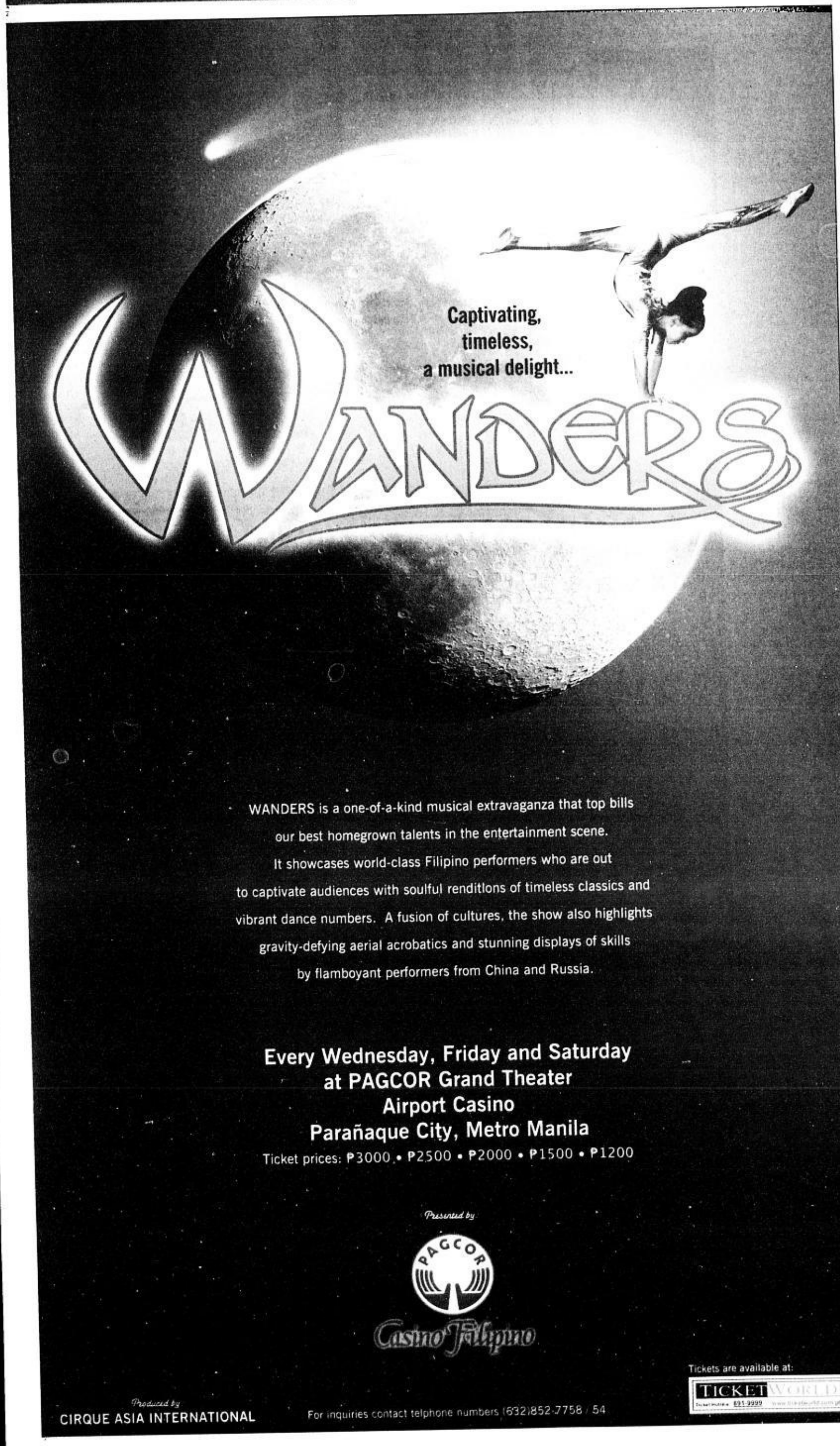
Despite the enormous number of visitors, the cathedral radiates peace and dignity, and, despite its size, is personal and serene.

As cathedral guests, we were granted special access to the grounds and buildings within the precincts. An hour after it closed to the public

THE SPIRIT/ C3



SHAFTS of light and changes in floor level accentuate the horizontal and vertical layering of spaces within the cathedral.



ENTERTAINMENT

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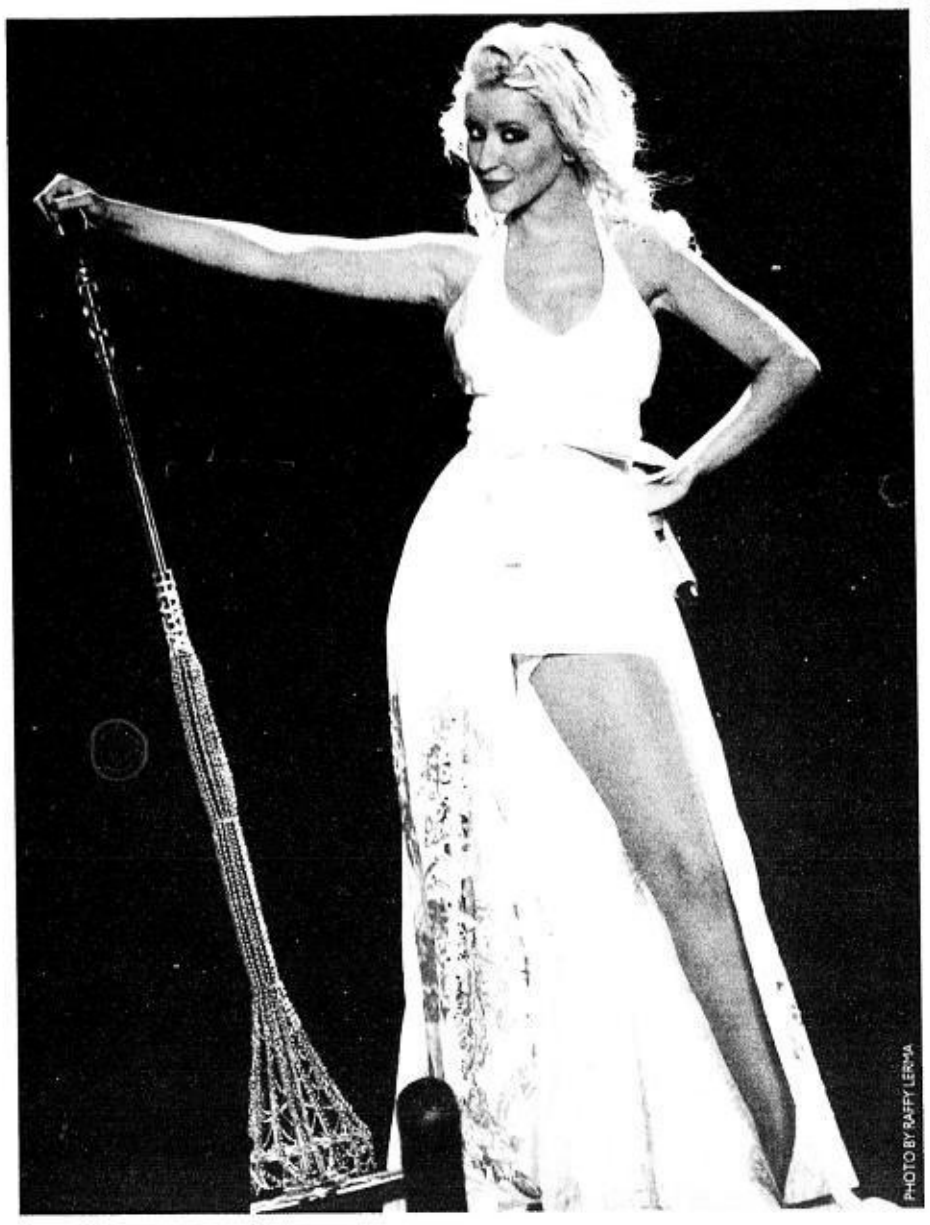

Christina Aguilera: The new Madonna?

MAYBE YES BECAUSE, AT 26, THE LATIN-American singer-songwriter has mastered the art of image-making and reinvention. But no, she shouldn't be compared to Madonna in terms of vocal skills. Aguilera is definitely miles ahead.

The multiple Grammy winner was in the country over the weekend for a much-awaited performance that was part of her "Back to Basics" world tour.

When she had to, Aguilera cooed to her visibly awed fans, but mostly she compelled them to sing, dance, join her on a journey using their imagination. They followed everywhere she led them.

On page D4, a review of the concert held Friday night at The Fort in Taguig.

2 out of 3 Filipinos are proficient in English.

Let's make it 3 out of 3.

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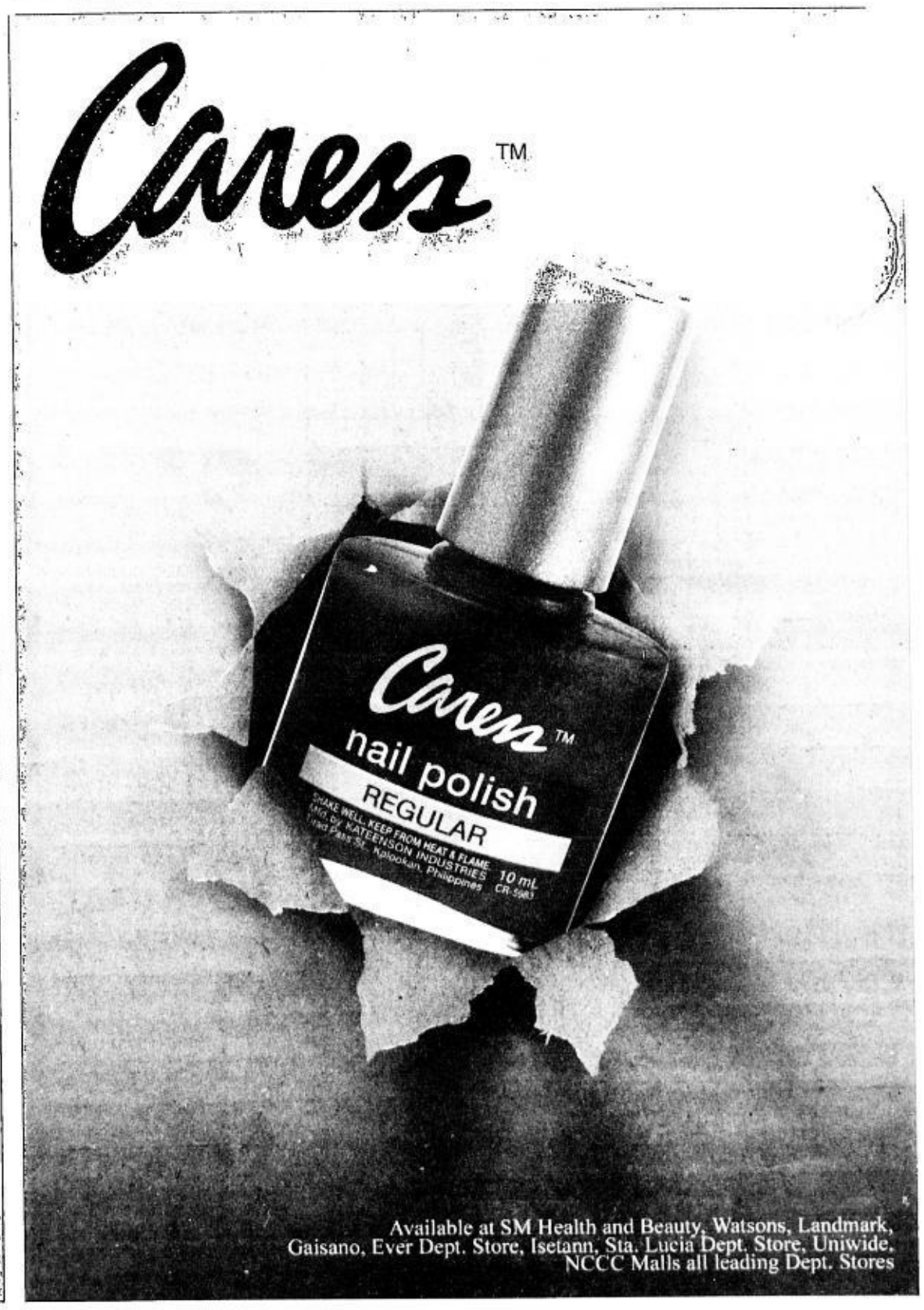
INSIDE

■ **Is the sitcom dead? Not really, says GMA 7 exec** /E1



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES

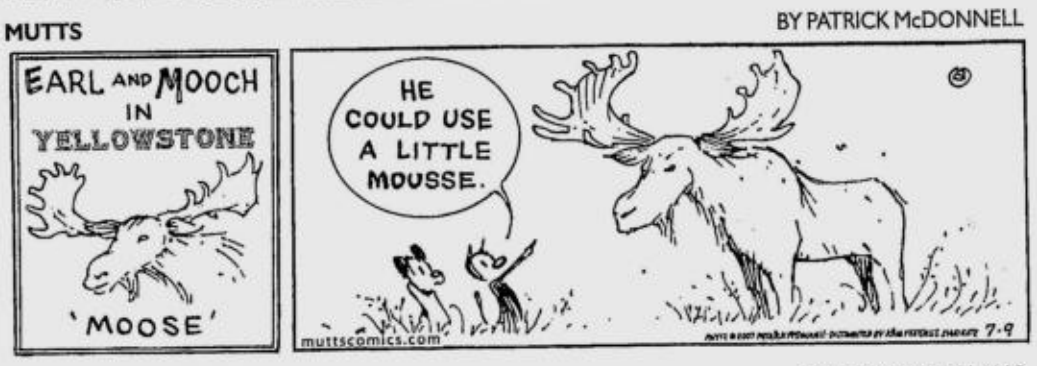
BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



LOVEKNOTS

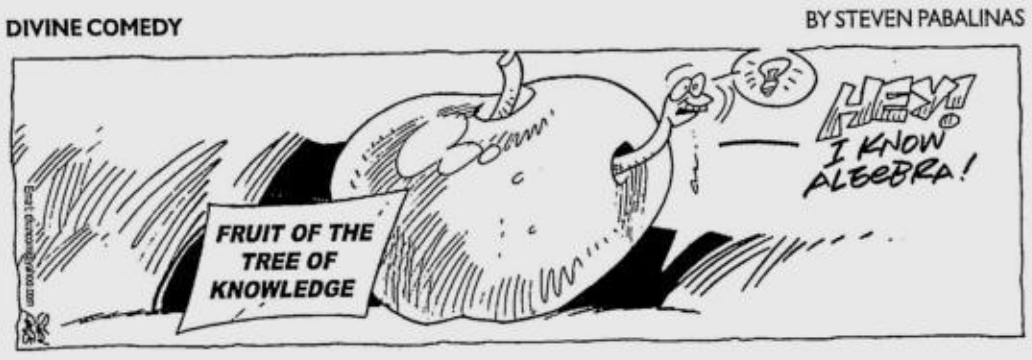
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



KIKO MACHINE

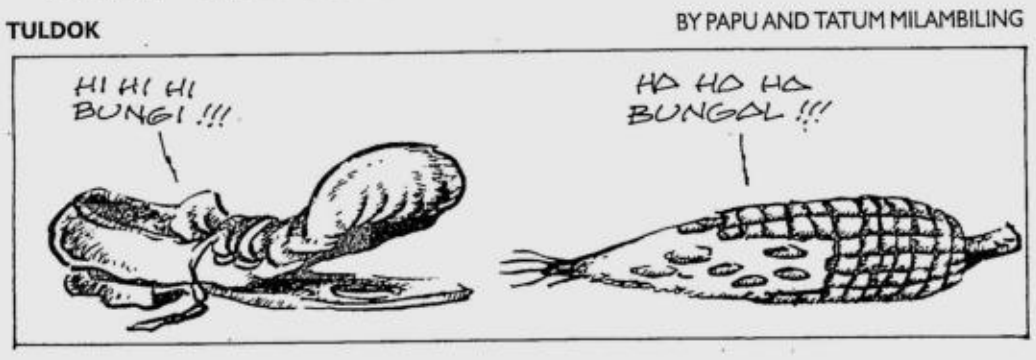
BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



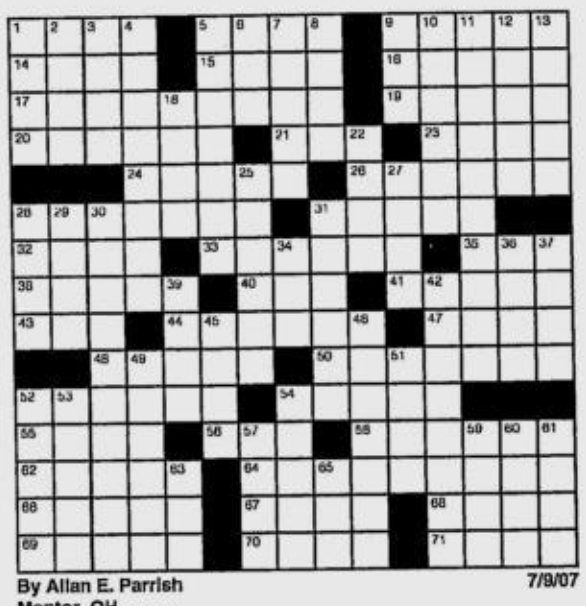
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Eight furlongs
5 Joan of folk
9 Irked
14 Cameo stone
15 Folksinger Guthrie
16 San __, CA
17 Trick pitch
19 Austere
20 Spanish wine
21 Actor McKellen
23 Samoan port
24 Lawyer's load
26 Pistol-packin' Annie
28 Lacking significance
31 Contradict
32 Fancy dressers
33 Spins around
35 New Jersey fort
38 Handout
40 "Exodus" character
41 Spout thoughts
43 Tibetan beast
44 Whittler
47 Bridle strap
48 Spiral-horned critter
50 Lasagna cheese
52 Fine-tune
54 SLR setting
55 Croakin' critter
56 Small pc. of land
58 White poplars
62 Basic principle
64 Manicurist's gadget
66 Certain cell phones
67 Potent start?
68 Bandleader Puente
69 "Am not!" retort
70 Noggin
71 Belgian river

DOWN
1 Tree trunk growth
2 Foot part
3 Harplike instrument
4 Workout
5 Watch children
6 Altar of stars
7 Perry of fashion
8 "Nana" novelist
9 Hesitation sounds
10 Former New York governor
11 Daily food fare
12 Weird
13 Hungarian wine
18 Rolled sandwich
22 Christmas carol
25 Playwright Albee
27 Likewise
28 Questionable
29 Vincent Lopez theme
30 "Being John Malkovich" director
31 Prickly plants
34 Cross or Kupcinet
36 Any part of JFK
37 TV's warrior princess
39 Some TVs
42 Real estate
45 Opposing
46 ADD drug
49 Racing sledders
51 The Georgia Peach
52 Broadcast talent org.
53 Dismal
54 Burn brightly
57 Uppity sort
59 "The Bridge of San __ Rey"
60 Villa d'__
61 Restaurateur Toots
63 General on a Chinese menu
65 Balin or Claire



By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH
7/9/07

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

P	R	E	S	A	G	E		B	A	P	T	I	S	T
H	O	L	I	D	A	Y		O	T	H	E	L	L	O
A	D	I	P	O	S	E		L	O	R	E	L	E	I
R	E	X					L	E	D	A		T	A	L
O	U	I	J	A	B	O	A	R	D	S		I	Z	E
S	P	R	U	C	E	G	O	O	S	E		M	I	T
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R	E	S	I	D	U	E		S	P	I	N	D	R	Y
O	N	T	O				L	O	R	R	E			
A	V	A		S	P	E	E	D	O	M	E	T	E	R
D	I	N		T	R	A	N	S	M	A	R	I	N	E
H	A	D		P	U	T	S				R	A	P	
O	B	S	C	E	N	E		A	L	A	B	A	M	A
G	L	O	A	T	E	R		R	E	R	E	D	O	S
S	E	N	D	E	R	S		T	E	E	T	E	R	S

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7/9/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a curious, investigative mind. You're full of original, inventive ideas. You're also extremely tenacious. (You're not a quitter.) You see connections between events and people that others often miss. Because you're independent, reliable and you always pull your weight in any situation, people like to work with you. You have a chance to learn something important this year.
Birthdate of: Tom Hanks, actor; Dean Koontz, author; Kelly McGillis, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Delays and obstacles at home (including visiting relatives) will soon be a thing of the past. Now things will go forward much more smoothly!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Good news! The transportation problems or delays you have suffered via lost items, late checks in the mail and interruptions or confusion to communications will now greatly diminish. (Whew!)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your ruler, Mercury, finally goes direct today. This means that delays in money matters, earnings and your cash flow will be a thing of the past.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Mercury has been retrograde in your sign, attracting ex-partners and old friends back into your life. Today this influence is over.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): In the past month, your focus more and more has been drifting to the past. Now it will swing around once again to focus on your future.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Because of contact with old friends, or just a shift in your own reality, you have been questioning your goals recently. Starting today, this doubt will start to disappear.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It's been hard to get new ventures off the ground. Past business and dealing with previous bosses might be the problem. Now you're prepared to go full steam ahead!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Delays connected with publishing, education, travel, medicine or the law are now over. It will be such a relief to work in these areas with less confusion and better efficiency.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You can be more confident about talks with partners and close friends. Delays in these areas have been like wading through quicksand. Things will get better now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): It hasn't been easy for some of you having to encounter ex-partners again. It's a distraction and a challenge. Now you can close the chapter on this part of your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Confusion, delays and all kinds of silly errors have dogged your footsteps at work. Now things can return to normal.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Past issues with children, delays in vacations and old flames on the scene have made the past six weeks a bit exhausting. Now things will move forward more smoothly. You can relax.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

7	1		9					
4	9				1	6		
		5			4	9	7	
1					2	8	3	
				4				
	2	7	6					9
	7	6	4			1		
		8	2				4	6
					8		2	5

Difficulty Level ★
7/09

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	2	9	5	3	6	7	8	4
5	6	8	9	7	4	2	3	1
7	3	4	8	1	2	9	5	6
3	9	5	1	2	8	4	6	7
2	7	1	6	4	3	8	9	5
8	4	6	7	5	9	3	1	2
9	5	7	4	8	1	6	2	3
6	1	3	2	9	7	5	4	8
4	8	2	3	6	5	1	7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Scrappy metal

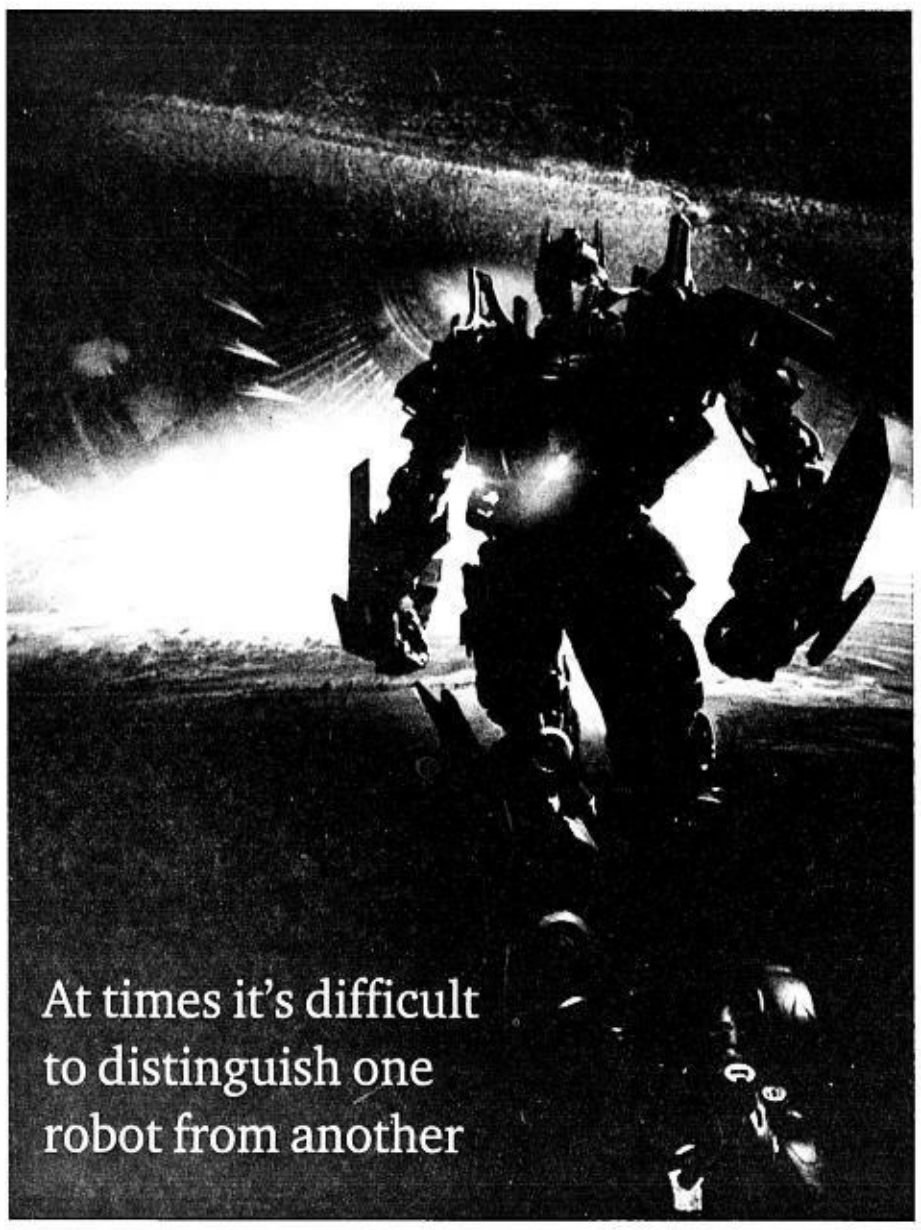
By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

THE LIVE-ACTION FILM VERSION OF "Transformers" is everything you'd expect from a typical Michael Bay-directed movie—deafening, frenetic and chock-full of explosions. But this time, the lack of subtlety aptly flavors the endeavor.

"Transformers" borrows and revamps several key concepts and characters from the original 1980s cartoon series, which featured warring alien robots that disguise themselves as Earth machines and vehicles.

While certain changes may disappoint or annoy diehard fans, "Transformers" succeeds in bringing to the big screen a new epic-scale fantasy franchise that's expected to spawn sequels and related merchandise in years to come.



At times it's difficult to distinguish one robot from another

Demarcation line

As with every special effects summer fantasy movie, there's a clear demarcation line between the forces of good and evil. The noble Autobots and their conquering Decepticon foes bring their war to Earth, both factions chasing after an ancient object of power that—as usual—can either doom the universe, or save it.

The humans aren't giving up without a fight, for sure, so we get a cross-section of busy, beleaguered earthlings prepping for a possible alien invasion. And, boy, there's a lot of token characters that perform requisite functions here, like the sound expert, the secret UFO investigator, the nonsense soldier, the funny computer guy ... and so on.

While each of them elicits specific and consistent reactions throughout the movie, the most important human perspective is that of Sam Witwicky's (Shia LaBeouf). He's this unpopular kid who gets a secondhand Camaro, but the car's actually the Autobot Bumblebee, whose presence at the used car shop is no coincidence.

Cheesy scenes

Soon enough, Sam and his crush Mikaela (Megan Fox) become integral to the quest for the cosmic object, and try to survive destructive melees between the smart automatons. LaBeouf and Fox do wonderfully; their characters' shared journey just becomes gushingly cute after their first few cheesy scenes together.

Most of the robots move smoothly (one Autobot even break-dances!) and look especially impressive as they seamlessly fit into complicated battle scenes.

Indistinct details

But many of the redesigns—understandable departures from the simpler-shaped cartoon predecessors—look really confusing with indistinct details all over their mechanical bodies. Consequently, it gets hard to distinguish one from the other sometimes.

Optimus Prime and Bumblebee are the exception, the easiest to identify from afar, but their archfoe Megatron looks like some of his Decepticon lackeys.

It's a little funny when Sam's early interactions with the Autobots feel "Iron Giant"-ish, resulting in some of the funnier dialogues between the young man and his parents. There are story details that feel prolonged and unnecessary, but they're quickly forgotten when the various Transformers duke it out and blaze across busy highways and cityscapes, with the staunch human combatants thrown in for good measure.

The scrappy sequences are big, lengthy, relentless, and won't let you regain your footing for long, but "Transformers" despite its overcompensating flaws, is still a fun, ferocious ride.

Bloomfields' happy music

MEMBERS OF THE BLOOMfields are only in their 20s and yet they already have a good grip on the hits of the 1960s and '70s which they call happy music.

Currently enjoying wider exposure with the music video of "Ale," a cover version included in their debut album, the Bloomfields play classic rock and pop, plus their own originals, every Wednesday starting July 11, 8 p.m. at the Fuente Circle, Eastwood City, Libis.

MEAGAN with Blush

SHOW TIME

Benefit concert

ABS-CBN's "ASAP" talent Chris Cayzer, young pop singer Lovi Poe and the Zamboangueño band Frio perform on July 14, 7 p.m. at the Summit Center, Zamboanga City.

Acoustic gigs

Acoustic nights at UCC Park Cafe features Meagan Aguilar with the duo Blush on Wednesdays, July 11, 18 and 25; and Joey Bautista of Mullato on Saturdays, July 14, 21 and 28.

Shows start at 7 p.m. UCC Park Cafe is located at Glorietta Park, Makati.

Tomorrow

Dale Adriatico at RJTV Bar. Call 899-1658

July 11

Instrumental Nite at RJTV Bar. Call 899-1658

July 12

NATF and Breaking Silence at RJTV Bar. Call 899-1658

The Members, 8 PM at Fuente Circle, Eastwood City

July 13

RJ and Moonstrucks at RJTV Bar. Call 899-1658

6Cyclemind and Blue Ketchup, 8 PM at Eastwood Central Plaza, Eastwood City

July 14

Reymond Sajor at SM City Lucena Cinema 4

LOVI

July 15

Erik Santos at Blue Wave Marikina

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Art Manuntag at RJTV Bar. Call 899-1658

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RJ and Moonstrucks at RJTV Bar. Call 899-1658

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Art Manuntag at RJTV Bar. Call 899-1658

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Instrumental Nite at RJTV Bar. Call 899-1658

July 26

NATF and Breaking Silence at RJTV Bar. Call 899-1658

July 27

Tenor Sal Malaki with guest violinist Joseph Valdes at the Meralco Theater

RJ and Moonstrucks at RJTV Bar. Call 899-1658

Nicolas Cage stars in paranormal thriller

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

NICOLAS CAGE MAY BE PAST HIS stellar prime, but he puts his current world-weary look to good use in his latest starrer, "Next." He plays a professional "magician" who turns out to be the real McCoy—meaning, he can actually see into the future!

However, instead of energizing him, his paranormal ability has brought him to the edge of psychic despair, because all he wants to do is to love as normally—and helplessly—as the next guy.

Thus, when a top FBI agent played by **Julianne Moore** taps him to prevent a devious nuclear attack on Los Angeles, Cage's character refuses to cooperate. Until the woman he loves is held hostage by terrorists, and Cage is forced to acquiesce.

The film works pretty well—except for its nuclear terrorist plot complication. That sort of conflict is too big, broad and "blockbuster" for this initially intimate, introspective drama, and would be better suited to a James Bond type of flick!

Sadly, its presence in "Next" distends the scope and sensibility of Cage's latest starrer, and makes it report to knee-jerk terrorist-plot capers and chases that fritter away its initial psychological and paranormal advantage.

The film is so hard-pressed to come up with a big, slam-bang finale that it even adds to Cage's powers: Not only can he see into the future, but all of a sudden, to confuse the terrorists he's chasing, Cage even acquires the ability to clone himself into a dozen facsimiles, all darting this way and that, and confusing the foe to perdition!

Lost and forgotten in the resulting confusion is the compelling gravity of Cage's now more mature screen persona. He looks like he's seen it all—but he's also a lot wiser for it.

We hope that he will put this new, more textured persona to better, more insightful use in his next starrer.

Feedback

From **Eugene Domingo**: "Thank you very much for your 'comic relief' column. I felt 'relieved' by it in a way. I understand your point and truly appreciate your concern about us supporting actors. Thank you for citing my being a stage actress because I really had a wonderful time doing 'Welcome to Intelstar' at the CCP.

"I would like to share with you that I've been doing some independent films, too, and they are totally different from my 'mainstream' exposure.

"I'm inviting you to the Philippine premiere of **Brillante Mendoza**'s "Foster Child" at 6 p.m. on July 20 at the CCP, and I'm also in "Pisay" by **Aureus Solito** in the 2007 Cinemalaya festival."

On Jack TV

"MadTV" unreels M-W-F at 7 p.m. Mondays at 6 p.m., the eggheads are at it again on "Street Smarts," a game show that tests you not on what you know, but what you think the other person thinks he knows. This is followed at 6:30 p.m. by "Beat the Geeks." And, at 11 p.m., it's time for **Kathy Griffin**'s outrageous "Life on the D-List."

Minister from hell

Robin Williams plays a minister from hell in the hilarious romantic comedy, "License to Wed." In the film, newly engaged couple Ben Murphy (**John Krasinski**) and Sadie Jones (**Mandy Moore**) can't wait to live happily ever after.

For that to happen, however, they first have to get married in Williams' church—and that isn't as easy as it sounds.

The minister won't bless Ben and Sadie's union until they pass his "foolproof" marriage prep course. It consists of outrageous classes, outlandish homework and outright invasion of privacy. Will they survive the ordeal?

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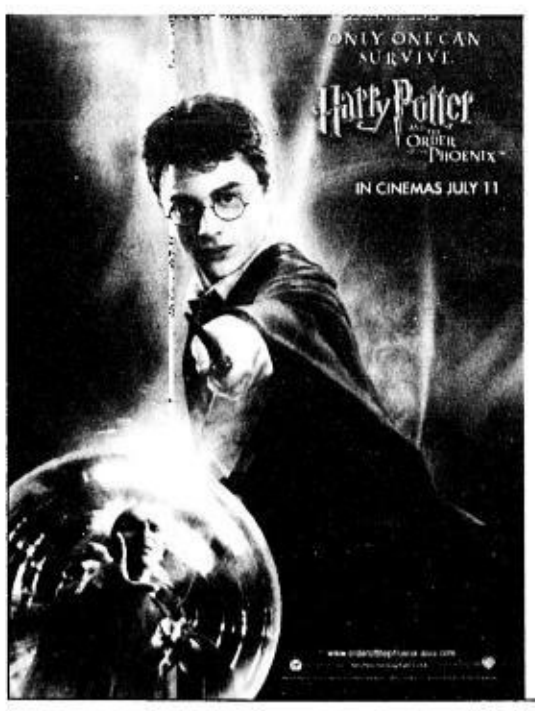

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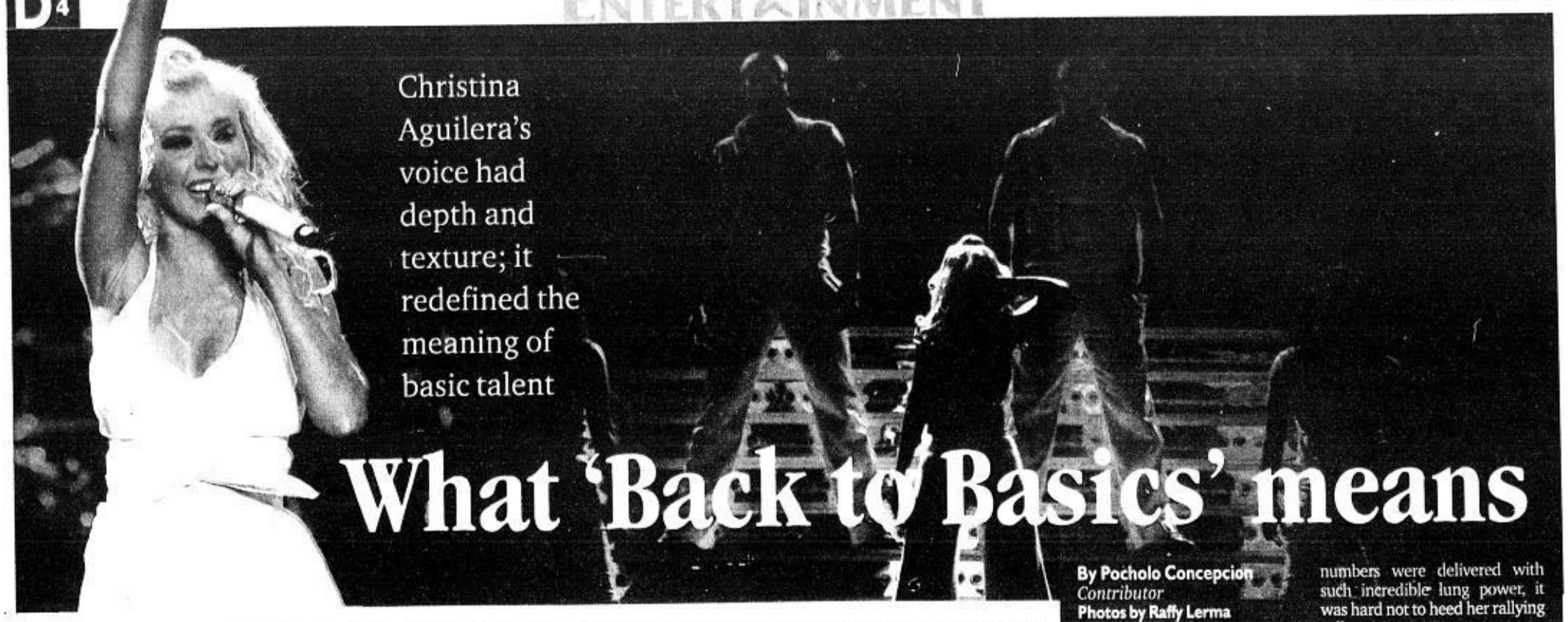


Christina Aguilera's voice had depth and texture; it redefined the meaning of basic talent

What 'Back to Basics' means

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor
Photos by Raffy Lerma

REVIEW

THE MUSIC SOUNDED almost like an orchestra and there were theatrical attempts to recreate bygone periods. But above all was an overwhelming presence whose voice redefined what basic talent meant.

Christina Aguilera, reportedly in the early months of pregnancy, performed tirelessly in a one-night concert on Friday at the Fort Bonifacio Global City Open Field in Taguig. Although there were empty seats in the VIP section and a wider, unfilled space at the back, the organizers (Globe Telecom and MTV) said the gig drew about 18,000 people.

Anxiety was high as the show started late, but all misgivings were wiped out the moment the 13-piece band erupted in a big, fat, brassy sound. On the video wall appeared snapshots of Donny Hathaway, Gladys Knight, Otis Redding, James Brown, Billie Holliday, Marvin Gaye and other great black artists.

It was Aguilera's way of leading the audience to appreciate her current preoccupation with black music, which comprises the material of her latest album, "Back to Basics" (Sony BMG), and in fact what inspired her, as a child, to sing and dance.

All dressed in white, Aguilera opened with "Ain't No Other Man," one of the hits off the double-disc album. It didn't matter if one was familiar with the song or the album; Aguilera's voice alone was a joy to hear.

"Urban soul"

It had depth and texture. Apparently, its power didn't take much effort to summon, although Aguilera had this habit of bending forward and slightly bouncing on her feet when she reached for the high notes. The crowd cheered each time.

"I want you to take a journey with me and use your imagination," Aguilera said.

What she really wanted was for the people to listen, and listen well, to the rhythms and melodies. It was music from another time and age—jazz and the blues—the music of our grandparents, updated with modern influences that Aguilera calls "urban soul."

Complementing the music were authentic recreations of period costumes and props. In the 1920s showgirls routine, Aguilera and her dancers acted like cabaret fixtures. "Come on over," she cooed.

There was a bit of R&B and hip hop in "Slow Down, Baby," but only for a short while. Because in the next several songs, Aguilera began to assume a character that had her slipping into revealing costumes.

(She once posed a question to the Western media: Why is it okay for male pop and rap stars to flaunt their bodies and machismo, while women who act aggressively are labeled whores?)

On Friday night, pushing the point once more, Aguilera dedicated some songs to the women in the audience. The songs spoke of empowerment and freedom to do what is otherwise regarded as taboo. The numbers were delivered with such incredible lung power, it was hard not to heed her rallying call.

"Oh, Mother," which Aguilera said she wrote for her own mom, was next. She recalled the domestic violence she witnessed as a child. It was the most difficult time of her life, she stressed, but also where she drew her strength from. Singing that song, with some lines chanted like a mantra, helped her get over the emotional scars, she said.

Spectacle unfolded with a circus act, with the star assuming another character named Baby Jane, the central figure among fire-eaters, tightrope walkers and all sorts of freaks.

By this time, even when the songs tended to bore, Aguilera's vocals managed to distract us from so much onstage action.

More legs and cleavage were exposed in succeeding numbers. But more than these eye-popping visuals, what mattered was the music that came on loud but didn't hurt the ears, and a voice that soared without screeching.

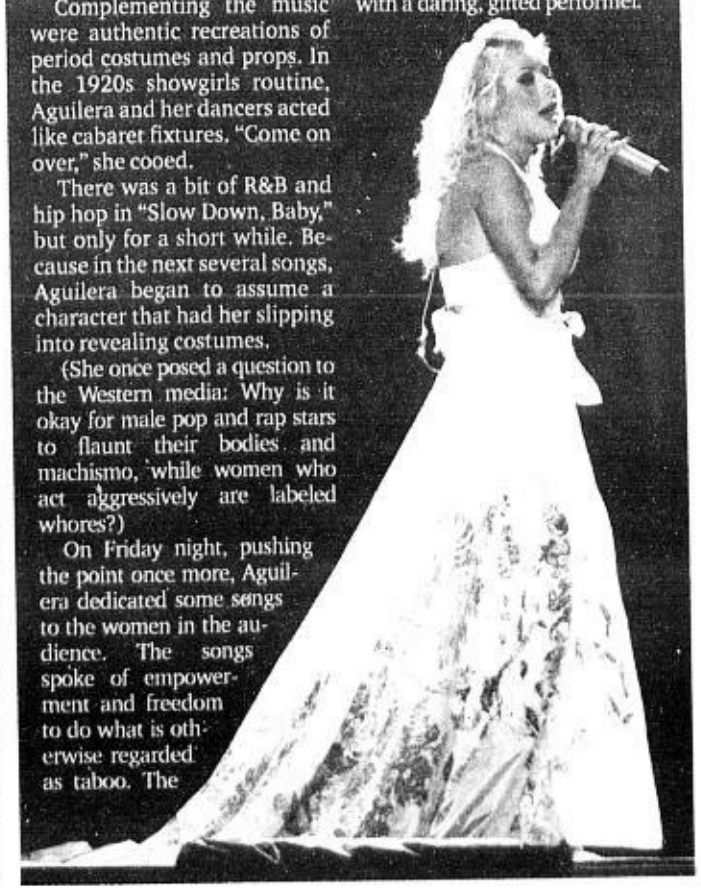
The loudest applause came when a drunken sailor character staggered onstage, signaling the start of "Candy Man." The crowd was familiar with its music video that recreated the boogie-woogie era of the 1940s. Aguilera was caught laughing at herself towards the song's end.

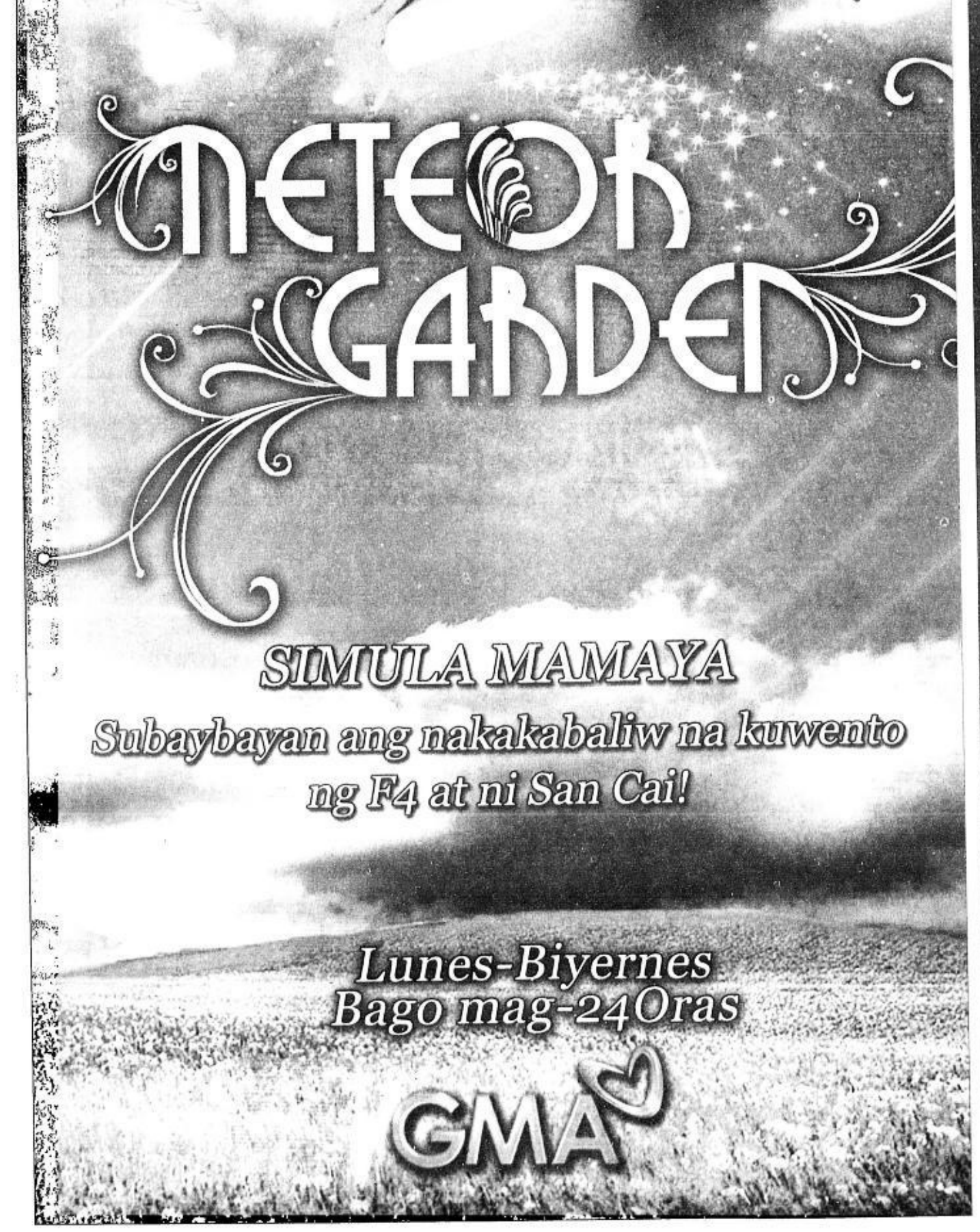
After a particularly emotional torch number, Aguilera's energy went one notch higher still, as she strutted like a peacock in "Lady Marmalade," a raucous cover of the Patty LaBelle original and a cut from the "Moulin Rouge!" film soundtrack that won a Grammy for Aguilera and co-singers Li'l Kim, Mya and Pink.

Aguilera has actually been winning Grammys since 2000, but her stint in "Lady Marmalade" introduced her to a wider audience and perhaps goaded her to further explore the sexually explicit image.

Three encore numbers starting with an old hit, "Beautiful," had the crowd scampering to get closer to Aguilera and snapping away with their cameras—a very common incident, by the way, which should remind organizers never to impose silly restrictions on the press, especially photographers.

And then it drizzled on the last song. The audience didn't mind of course, and even welcomed its cooling effect after a hot night with a daring, gifted performer.





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Killing Kili TV

Sitcom as a genre is not dead; it's just a case of audience fatigue, says a GMA 7 official

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

SCRIPTWRITER-DIRECTOR Jose Javier Reyes first pointed out this trend in local television, in a September 2006 INQUIRER Entertainment article entitled "The day the laughter died." He said: "The Filipino sitcom [has been] pushed to the back burner. [It is close to] extinction."

The latest developments in the program lineup of the country's two leading networks, ABS-CBN and GMA 7, seem to confirm Reyes' observation.

Recently, the GMA 7 sitcom "Bahay Mo Ba 'To," which ran for three years, was axed, reportedly catching its cast members by surprise. In the same week that this news hit the tabloids, the INQUIRER learned that a recently launched Kapuso sitcom, "Who's Your Daddy Now," is being "reformatted."

On rival station ABS-CBN, the sitcom "Aalog-Alog" was canceled two months ago.

There are now only two comedy programs aired on the Kapamilya channel: the kiddie gag show "Going Bulilit" and the sitcom "John En Shirley." The latter stars Comedy King Dolphy and movie queens Susan Roces and Maricel Soriano and is line-produced by KB Entertainment.

'Comic reality'

Back in the Kapuso network, Wilma Galvante, senior vice president for Entertainment TV, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that the sitcom as a genre is not really dead.

"We are not folding up a genre," Galvante explained. "We're ending [the run of] sitcoms, but we will replace them with ... something more exciting."

The new hybrid can be described as "comic reality," a cross between comedy and reality shows.

An example would be "HP: To the Highest Level," which top-bills Bong Revilla and Rufa Mae Quinto and features cast members playing various parlor games.

"It's not the usual sitcom," Galvante said of this new show that will replace "Bahay," she added. "There is something [happening] in the time slot."

The Kapuso comedy lineup is dubbed "Kili TV," and runs nightly at 10:30.

"Perhaps it's audience fatigue. We are merely addressing the [changes] in audience preference," Galvante said. "We're re-slotting the programs."

CHEER FACTOR

Stars support Rwanda tourism

KINIGI, RWANDA—A GROUP OF INTERNATIONAL stars named 23 baby mountain gorillas in Rwanda last week, supporting efforts to save the endangered species and develop tourism in the genocide-scarred country.

Actress Natalie Portman led the pack at the ceremony in the Volcanoes National Park, the third fundraising event of its kind organized by the Rwandan authorities.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), says there are only 720 mountain gorillas surviving in the wild, in parks straddling Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. *AFP*

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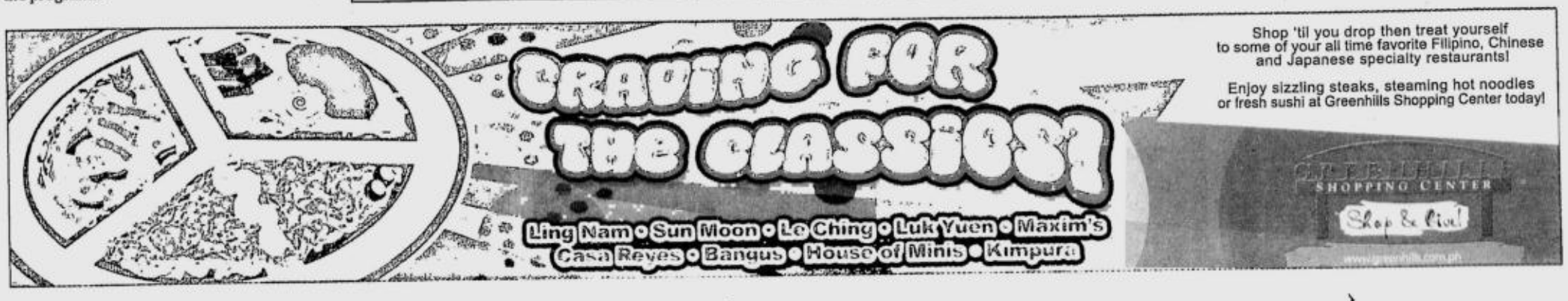

Rockers accuse Avril Lavigne of stealing 'Girlfriend' tune

SAN FRANCISCO—AVRIL LAVIGNE FACES A lawsuit filed by members of a 1970s rock band who claim that her hit song "Girlfriend" rips off one of their tunes.

Songwriters Tommy Dunbar and James Gangwer alleged in a lawsuit filed in US District Court that Lavigne and her co-writers lifted their 1979 song "I Wanna Be Your Boyfriend," originally performed by New Wave band The Rubinoos.

"We are not so naive as to chalk it up to some sort of cosmic coincidence," Dunbar said Thursday. "The lyric, the meter, the rhythm—they're identical."

The first court date has been set for Aug. 28 in Oakland.

A spokeswoman for Lavigne declined to comment.

Not the first

Videos comparing Lavigne's song with the Rubinoos' tune were among the most popular on YouTube Friday. Nearly half a million people had watched various clips highlighting the similarities between the songs.

The lawsuit is not the first mention of the similarities between the songs. Music critic Stephen Thomas Erlewine, in a review published on Billboard magazine's Web site, noted that the chorus of "Girlfriend" was a "total lift from the Rubinoos' 'I Wanna Be Your Boyfriend.'"

AP

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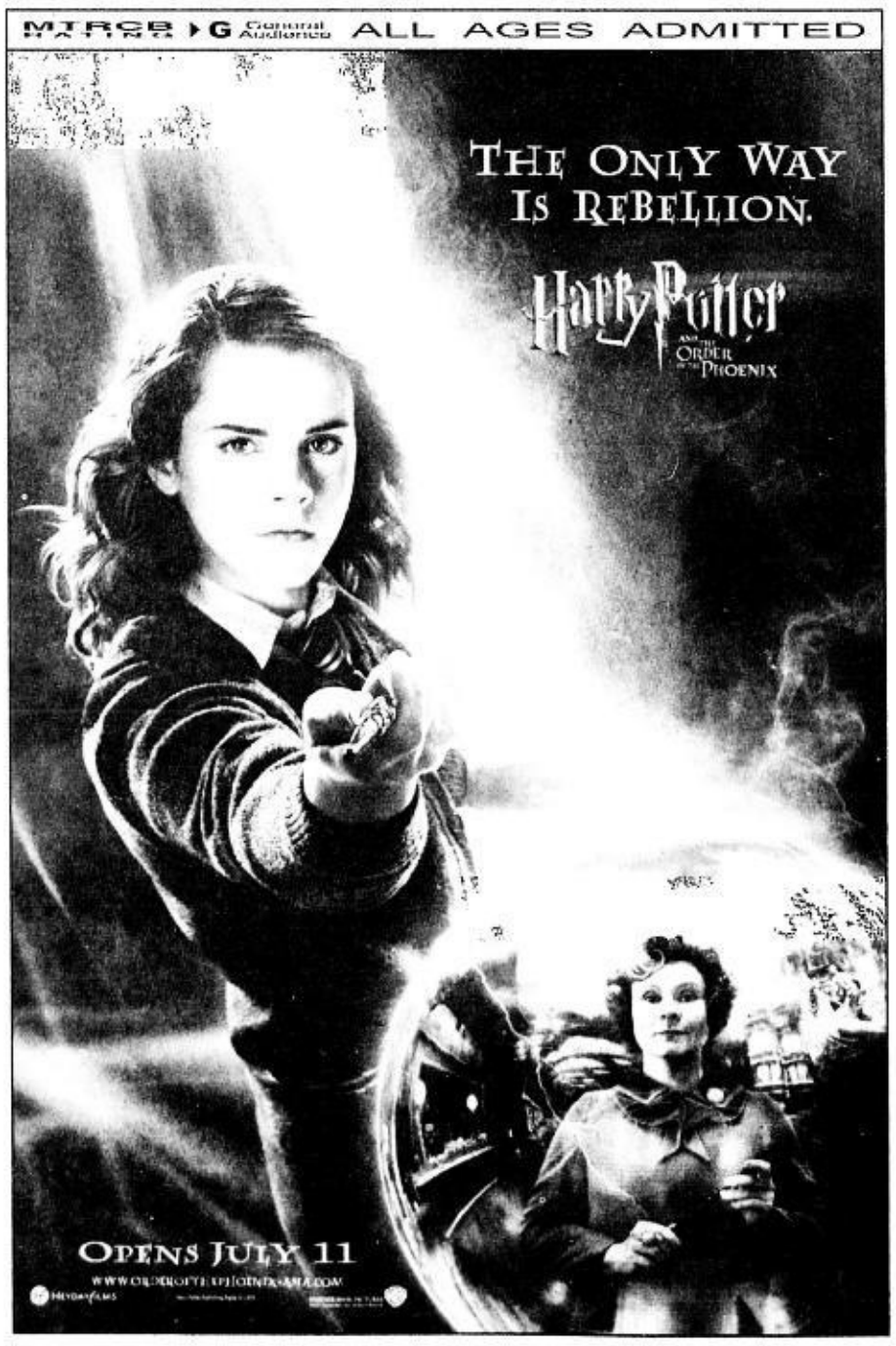

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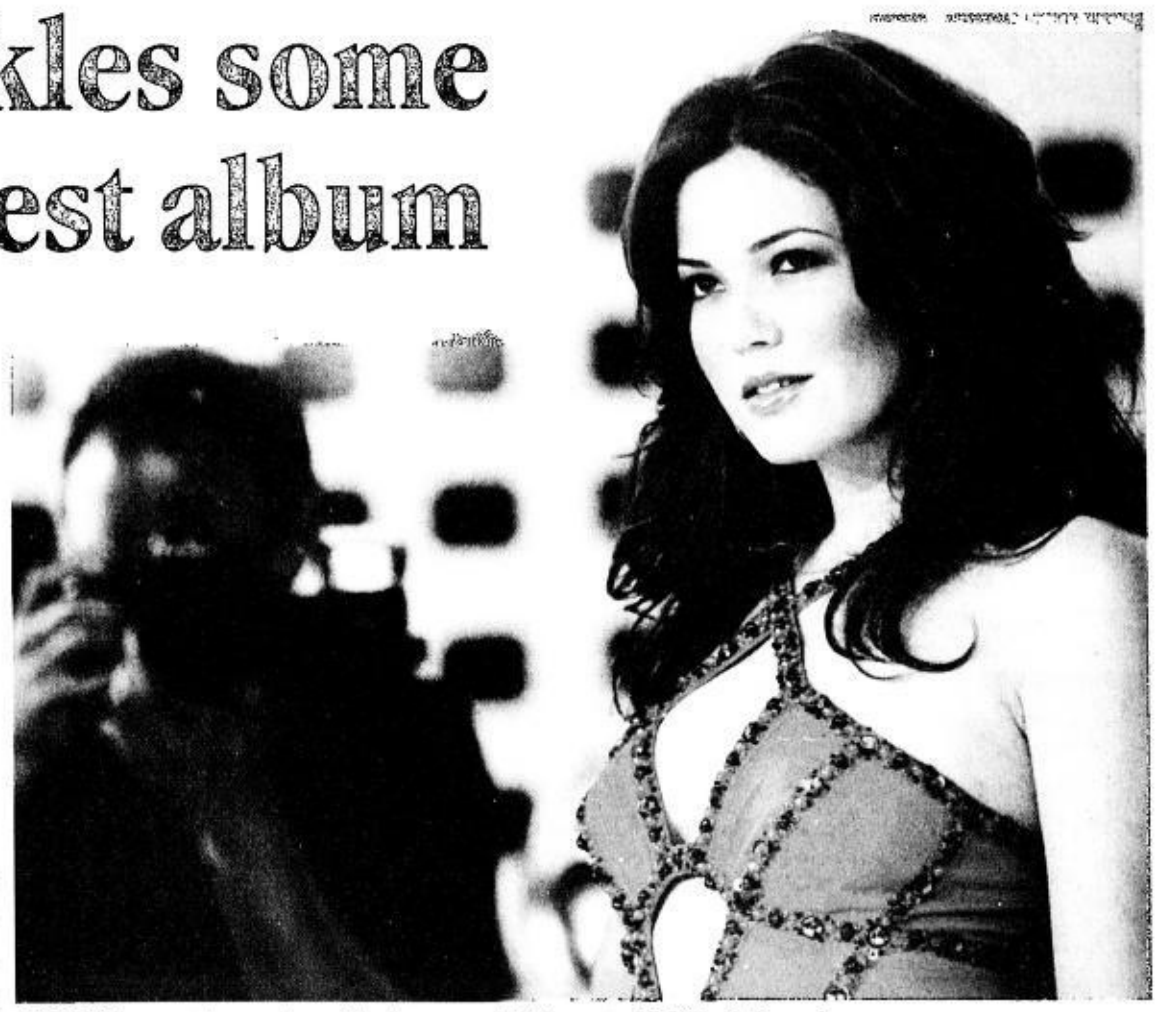
Mandy Moore tackles some 'heavy stuff' in latest album



MANDY Moore at the premiere of her latest movie, "License to Wed," in Hollywood. REUTERS

NEW YORK—MANDY MOORE, THE ANGEL-faced actress and sometime singer, interrupted her recent concert in Manhattan to grumble for a moment about the men who did her wrong.

"You know, guys suck," she proclaimed, her sweet facial expression diluting any post-breakup bitterness. "I don't want to make a sweeping generalization, but some guys suck! And I've come across a few."

The statuesque 23-year-old, who split from TV star Zach Braff last year and has dated tennis hunk Andy Roddick and man-about-town Wilmer Valderrama, sings through some heavy stuff on "Wild Hope," her first studio album in more than three years.

Bye to bubble gum

The folk-pop disc, released last month and recorded in New York's rustic Catskill mountains, is a departure from the bubblegum music of Moore's not-so-distant past. Produced by John Alagia, who's shaped albums by Dave Matthews and Liz Phair, its acoustic sound and mature themes of heartbreak and personal growth would be more at home in a coffee shop than on popular radio. And Moore, who has had more success as an actress than she ever did as a singer, is fine with that.

After all, her star continues to rise in film, overshadowing her singing career and forays into fashion design. She currently co-stars with Robin Williams in the new comedy "License to Wed," and will appear later this summer in the art-house romance "Dedication." Music, however, remains her biggest passion.

"It's just where my heart really is," Moore told The Associated Press during an interview in a trendy Manhattan hotel, wearing a casual black dress and nibbling on cashews. "I love going back and forth and doing a little bit of [singing and acting]. I feel fulfilled creatively by a little bit of both."

Getting to the finish line was the hard part. As she branched out into movies, Moore parted ways with two record labels, Epic and then Warner Music Group, over the organic direction she wanted to take her music.

Wrote every track

"Basically, it was me being adamant about wanting to write a record and not wanting to perform somebody else's material onstage anymore," she said, adding that higher-ups at Warner wanted to make a "very, very different pop record" than she had envisioned.

Moore, who tackled classic songs in her 2003 album, the low-selling "Coverage," eventually signed with Firm Music, a new label run by her management company. As part of the deal, in which artist and label share ownership of each record, Moore gets full creative control. She co-wrote every track on "Wild Hope," bringing little-known singer-songwriters Lori McKenna and Rachel Yamagata into her team of collaborators.

Recording the album last year, she said, was "completely cathartic" and helped her sail through the breakup with Braff.

The bottom line, she noted, was to "try to feel better in general and less confused and less perplexed by life and everything that sort of comes along with it as you enter adulthood. Because that's what it was for me."

Her spell of sadness was only temporary. During this interview, Moore reveals herself to be outgoing and chatty—and, yes, wholesome. She sips apple juice. She introduces her new boyfriend, singer Greg Laswell, who sits at a laptop computer inside the hotel suite.

She said she'd rather challenge expectations than be pigeonholed as The Girl Next Door.

"I don't mind that people are like, 'Ah, you know, you're wholesome and you seem like a real good girl,'" she said. "That is quintessentially who I am, but there are times when you don't want to exactly feel like someone can pin you down, or pinpoint exactly who you are."

SPIN

Moore looks up to Reese Witherspoon, whose eclectic career she hopes to emulate.

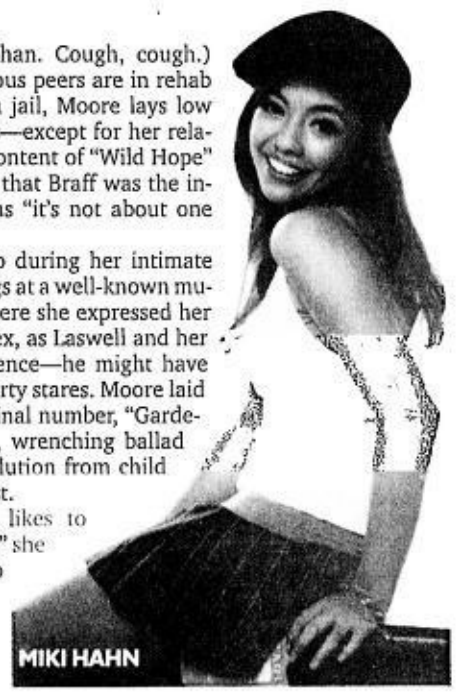
"You can lose yourself in the work that she's doing and you're not sort of sitting there, thinking about her life and what she ate for breakfast," she said of the Oscar-winning actress. "Unfortunately, there are those celebrities—and it's not their fault, but you can't really detach yourself from their persona."

Far from peers

(Cough. Lindsay Lohan. Cough, cough.) Indeed, while her famous peers are in rehab or freshly sprung from jail, Moore lays low and out of the tabloids—except for her relationships. The lyrical content of "Wild Hope" has set off speculation that Braff was the inspiration; Moore claims "it's not about one specific person."

Had Braff shown up during her intimate set of "Wild Hope" songs at a well-known music venue—the one where she expressed her distaste for the male sex, as Laswell and her father sat in the audience—he might have been the recipient of dirty stares. Moore laid it all out there in the final number, "Gardenia," a stripped-down, wrenching ballad that speaks of her evolution from child pop star to serious artist.

"I'm the one who likes to make love on the floor," she sings. "I don't want to hang up the phone yet; It's been good getting to know me more." *AP*



MIKI HAHN

SESSION ROAD

From Sessionroad

Sessionroad's latest album, "Bakit Hindi" (Alpha Music), features the track "Song For You" which can be heard on top-rating FM radio stations.

The band whose members hail from Baguio took its name from the busiest street in the country's summer capital.

Sessionroad is composed of siblings Hannah (vocals), JV (percussion) and Chavi Romawac (drums), Coy Placido (guitars) and Richard Carandang (bass).

Miki's debut

Eighteen-year-old singer Miki Hahn debuts with her self-titled album, "Miki" (Viva Records), which contains nine new songs and two remakes, Gerry Paraiso's "You Won't See Me Crying" and Odette Quesada's "I Need You Back."

Beatles & bossa

The bossa nova trend continues as it covers the music of the world's biggest band, The Beatles, in the album "Bossa Down Abbey Road" (Viva Records).

It was recorded by a group called BNB.

The people behind the the album include producers Christian de Walden and Ralf Stemman. De Walden is an international music promoter, publisher and producer who has worked with Placido Domingo, Celine Dion, Pink Floyd and Andrea Bocelli. Stemman is a pianist, arranger, composer, conductor and musical director who has collaborated with Ricky Martin, Thalia, Engelbert Humperdinck, The Three Degrees and The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, among others.

The group BNB, which came together just for this album, is composed of veteran musicians who have done session work with Cher, Neil Diamond, Donna Summer, Diana Ross, Olivia Newton-John, Natalie Imbruglia, Neil Young, Brian Wilson, Amy Grant, Toto, Jerry Lee Lewis and many others.

"Bossa Down Abbey Road" contains 14 Beatles classics reworked with a Latin beat.

AMY CRUZ

Made in London

Twenty-one-year-old singer Amy Cruz has a new album, "Remember My Name," which was recorded in London.

The 10-track album contains seven originals written by composers from the US, UK and Asia.

The Pampanga-born Cruz is reportedly the first Filipino to record at London's Red Bus Studios, where Tom Jones, Duran Duran, George Michael and other world-famous pop artists have recorded their works.

JESSICA HAGEDORN

'Dogeaters' play coming to Manila

ATLANTIS PRODUCTIONS BRINGS Filipino-American playwright Jessica Hagedorn's acclaimed play "Dogeaters" to the Philippines in November.

"Dogeaters" is based on Hagedorn's book of the same title, a best-selling novel and National Book Award nominee about the Philippines during the Marcos rule.

The cast of characters—from movie stars to waiters, from a young junkie to the richest man in the Philippines—become caught up in events that culminate in a beauty pageant, a film festival and an assassination.

"Dogeaters" will be directed by Bobby Garcia, who is in the process of casting the play, which will be staged at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza Makati.

Interested show buyers can call 892-7078.

Bruce Dern writes a tough-talking memoir

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA—WITH his film resumé, you might expect Bruce Dern to be a hard-living character. After all, he was the guy who offed John Wayne in "The Cowboys," tried to blow up the Super Bowl with a blimp in "Black Sunday" and rode top gun in those motorcycle movies.

Dern shoots down such expectations: "I've never had a drink of alcohol. I've never had a cigarette. I've never had a cup of coffee. I've never had a marijuana cigarette. I've never had cocaine."

Long-distance runner

What he has had are legs. Dern's been a long-distance runner for most of his life. In his prime, he ran nearly 160 kilometers from Malibu to San Bernardino, San Diego and other parts of Southern California. At 71, he's still running, but confesses that he has switched to the senior class.

Dern traveled by car from his Pasadena home to the nearby Ritz Carlton Hotel for an interview to tout his new memoir, "Things I've Said, But Probably Shouldn't Have." The book is filled with movie-set expletives, belying his otherwise genteel manner and elegant upbringing.

His family lived in a castle-like home in Winnetka, near Chicago. His grandfather had been governor of Utah, one uncle was President Franklin D. Roosevelt's secretary of war and another was poet-playwright Archibald MacLeish. Adlai Stevenson was a frequent visitor to the Dern mansion.

During the interview, he was asked how he wrote the book. It turned out he didn't write it; he spoke it.

Three years ago, writers Christopher Fryer and Robert Crane told him, "There's a book in you."

"I can't write or type," Dern protested. "I failed typing in high school."

The writers assured him they could write the book by interviewing him. Dern was encouraged that the pair had similarly written a book with his friend Jack Nicholson. So "Things I've Said" came from 88 hours of talk.

"We would meet with Bruce in the bar of the Ritz Carlton in the morning while nobody was there," said co-author Crane. "We would work for three or four hours every day for about six weeks. When we finished, we had 1,500 pages of transcripts, and Chris and I broke it down for a year."

Dern joined other Actors Studio devotees who migrated to Hollywood in the 1950s and 1960s, bringing a revolutionary style of acting. But unlike Montgomery Clift, Marlon Brando and James Dean, Dern did not achieve immediate star status. At first he was limited to minor roles in TV series and low-budget movies.

Most infamous role

His emergence began as a marathon dancer in "They Shoot Horses, Don't They?" His other films included "The Great Gatsby" and "Coming Home," for which he received an Academy Award nomination. His most infamous role came in 1972 with "The Cowboys," when he shot John Wayne. With a perfect rendition of Duke's growl, Dern recalled Wayne warning him: "They're going to hate you for this." Dern replied, "Maybe so. But in Berkeley, I'll be a hero." Wayne had supported the Vietnam War; the University of California, Berkeley was a hotbed of protest at the time.

A longtime resident of the celebrity Mecca of Malibu, Dern surprised his neighbors by moving to staid Pasadena. The impetus: Mother Nature.

"The ocean's not your friend; she wants your house," he said. In 1982, high surf destroyed 186 square meters of his property, including a tea house and living room. The next assault came in 1994 when fire swept down from the mountains and aimed for his rebuilt beach house. Dern sold the 650-sqm structure, built in 1927 by Frank Capra, for $5M—$4.6M more than he paid for it 30 years earlier. After trying a couple of locations in the posh Bel-Air neighborhood, he chose the quiet dignity of Pasadena.

BRUCE Dern with Virginia Madsen in "The Astronaut Farmer"

Dim view of movies

Dern feels he was fortunate to arrive in Hollywood when stars were genuinely stellar.

"I was lucky to work with people of a certain kind of magnificent stature," he said. "They didn't call them legends without a reason; they were legends. There was much more personality-driven film machinery than there is today. Now it's more about personal behavior off the set, off the screen."

He also takes a dim view of today's filmmaking: "I'm very disturbed that in the past 15 years, where have the people gone? ... Now it's gadgetry, big stuff. We've got away from the people and the stories. Where are the stories?" *AP*

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GALLERIA

Ticket Price THX: P160 130 Indie Sine: 100 632 9118

1 DIE HARD 4 • THX
11:30 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30

2 DIE HARD 4
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 DIE HARD 4
1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

4 TRANSFORMERS
12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00

5 TRANSFORMERS
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

6 TRANSFORMERS
1:15 4:00 6:45 9:30

7 FANTASTIC FOUR
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

8 indieSine: GMA Short Films
1:30 3:20 5:10 7:00 8:50

9 PARAISO
12:15 2:35 4:55 7:15 9:35

10 TIYANAKS
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

ERMITA

Ticket Price: P90 / P90 687-5378

1 DIE HARD 4
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

2 BUG 12:00 1:55 3:40
FANTASTIC FOUR 4:05 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 TRANSFORMERS
12:15 3:10 6:05 9:00

4 PARAISO
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 TIYANAKS
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 10:00

6 DIE HARD 4
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

7 TRANSFORMERS
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

METRO EAST

1 TRANSFORMERS
2:50 5:50

2 DIE HARD 4
11:50 2:50 5:50 8:50

3 DIE HARD 4
12:20 3:20 6:20 9:20

4 TRANSFORMERS
11:45 2:50 5:50 9:00

5 PARAISO
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

6 FANTASTIC FOUR
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 DIE HARD 4
11:20 2:20 5:20 8:20

8 TIYANAKS
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

NOVALICHES

1 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TIYANAKS
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 TRANSFORMERS

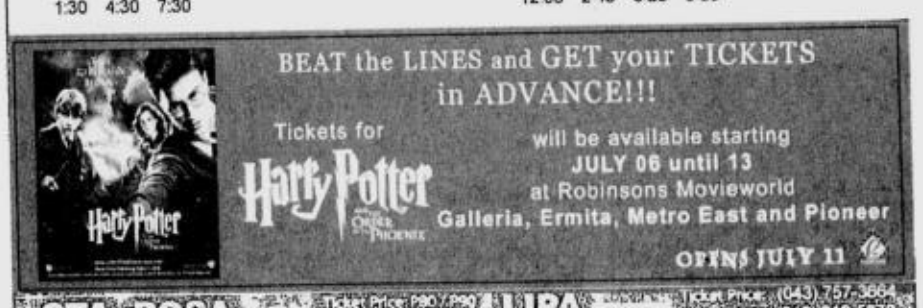
PIONEER

1 DIE HARD 4
11:00 2:00 5:00 8:00

2 DIE HARD 4
1:30 4:30 7:30

3 TRANSFORMERS
3:15 5:55 8:35

4 TRANSFORMERS
12:05 2:45 5:25 8:05



STA. ROSA

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1 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TIYANAKS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 TRANSFORMERS

LIPA

Ticket Price: (043) 757-3664 P 90 / (043) 312-5570

1 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4
3 THE INVISIBLE
4 TIYANAKS
5 TRANSFORMERS

DASMARINAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TIYANAKS

IMUS

(046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4
3 NEXT
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TIYANAKS
6 FANTASTIC FOUR

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 DIE HARD 4

TARLAC

1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 THE INVISIBLE

STARMILLS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 878-1927

1 TRANSFORMERS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TIYANAKS
5 DIE HARD 4
6 DIE HARD 4

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0458

1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 RESERVE
5 THE INVISIBLE
6 TIYANAKS

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TIYANAKS
6 THE INVISIBLE

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SCREENING TIME	JULY 11 WEDNESDAY	JULY 12 THURSDAY	JULY 13 FRIDAY	JULY 14 SATURDAY	JULY 15 SUNDAY	JULY 16 MONDAY	JULY 17 TUESDAY
11:00 AM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	FEW SEATS	OPEN	OPEN
2:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
5:00 PM	FEW SEATS	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
8:00 PM	SOLD OUT	FEW SEATS	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
11:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	FEW SEATS	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

Subject to change without prior notice. You may also call your nearest SM Cinema branch and The Podium Cinema for their respective advance ticket selling screening schedules.

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX
SPIDER-MAN 3 8:00PM Admission Prices: P 350
T-REX 3:00PM 6:30PM Admission Prices: P 200
ANT BULLY 1:00PM 4:30PM Admission Prices: P 250
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 TIYANAKS
6 PARAISO

PREMIERE CINEMA
DIE HARD 4

CENTERSTAGE
TRANSFORMERS

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
TRANSFORMERS
CINEMA 2
DIE HARD 4
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 DIE HARD 4
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 TIYANAKS
9 FANTASTIC FOUR
10 PARAISO
11 DIE HARD 4
12 TRANSFORMERS

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 DIE HARD 4
2 PARAISO
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 DIE HARD 4
6 DIE HARD 4
7 DIE HARD 4
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 TRANSFORMERS
12 TIYANAKS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 PARAISO
2 TIYANAKS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 DIE HARD 4
7 DIE HARD 4
8 TIYANAKS
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 WILDERNESS
12 NEXT

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 BUG
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 PARAISO
9 TIYANAKS
10 NEXT

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 PARAISO
5 FANTASTIC FOUR/ DIE HARD 4
6 TIYANAKS

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TIYANAKS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 DIE HARD 4
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 DIE HARD 4
8 TRANSFORMERS
9 PARAISO

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 DIE HARD 4
7 OCEAN'S 13
8 PARAISO
9 BUG
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 NEXT
12 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 TIYANAKS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS

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SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 NEXT
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TIYANAKS
6 PARAISO
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TIYANAKS
6 PARAISO

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TIYANAKS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS/ MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TIYANAKS

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 PARAISO
6 TIYANAKS

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 INVISIBLES
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TIYANAKS

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 THE SHOOTER

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TIYANAKS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TIYANAKS

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TIYANAKS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 DIE HARD 4
2 PARAISO/ FANTASTIC FOUR
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TIYANAKS
6 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TIYANAKS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 INVISIBLES
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TIYANAKS
5 DIE HARD 4
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 RESERVED
8 PARAISO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 PARAISO
6 TIYANAKS
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TIYANAKS
4 DIE HARD 4

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

FEEDBACK

Tyrants of choice

From Rowena De Roselin (wengaidee@yahoo.com) San, Carlos, Caba, La Union:

I strongly agree with Tia Salonga's opinion (Feedback, July 4, 2007) that women should learn from the experiences of Gretchen, Marjorie, Assunta and Ruffa.

Ms Salonga asked, "How long would it take Assunta or Gretchen, and all others like them, to realize that they are worth more than the designer clothes they wear?"

I found it quite alarming. Many unguided young women may follow in their footsteps, indeed, at this time when it's hard to distinguish between right and wrong and material gratification is far more appreciated than character. The Philippines has produced great women, like Tandang Sora, who fought hard to win back their people's freedom from tyrants. Yet, today women choose to be slaves to chosen tyrants: men, if not money.

* * *

From Soxy Martin (mma920@hotmail.com), 845 Woodside Way, San Mateo, CA:

Very well said! Patriarchy is dead because women know much better now, than before. I am a degree holder who opted to be a stay-home mom and wife in the mid '70s. I don't regret my choice. I'm lucky to have a husband who is a good provider, making me the FEO, taking care of money matters. Now that my children have grown up, I've gone back to work and I love every minute of it. Oh, another thing: Women should learn to enjoy sex as much as men do.

Not in Benguet

From Janni Albano (ke_janni@yahoo.com), Pindongan, Kiangan, Ifugao:

For the nth time, we would like to correct the general misconception that Ifugao is located in Benguet or Mt. Province. Ifugao is a province itself. Hungduan is a municipality in Ifugao. I hope that in future articles, this mistake will not be repeated.

Oops, really sorry. Writer Marinel R. Cruz got the story and all the details from an information sheet dispatched by the movie's production outfit, Sizzling Gambas. She then proceeded to follow the lead and conducted relevant interviews.

It's Jeanne!

From: Ed Sicam (edsicam@yahoo.com), 57 K-1 Kamuning, QC:

In the article "A higher quality Cinemalaya '07" by Marinel Cruz (July 2, 2007, fifth paragraph) "Jeannie Kim and Socorro Fernandez's 'Gulong'" should read "Jeanne Lim and Socorro Fernandez's 'Gulong.'"

Big screen's best-loved characters, and how to beat casino security

MASTER MAGICIAN AND GAMbling expert R. Paul Wilson and his team take up the challenge of beating the best in casino security in "The Takedown," Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. on C/S channel.

On 2nd Avenue

•This month, 2nd Avenue's "Third Row" presents the big screen's best-loved characters every Saturday at 10 p.m.

•On July 14, Jim Carrey, Danny Devito star in the critically-acclaimed biopic, "Man On The Moon," under the direction of Milos Forman. Carrey portrays the legendary Andy Kaufman—the late avant garde comedian known for his complex, controversial and insane performances on and off the small screen.

•Airing on July 21 is "I Am Sam" starring Sean Penn, Michelle Pfeiffer and Dakota Fanning under the direction of Jessie Nelson. Penn plays a mentally retarded man fighting for custody of his 7-year-old daughter, and in the process teaches his cold-hearted lawyer the value of love and family.

"PRISON BREAK"

2nd Avenue is being aired on channel 53 at Sky Cable Gold and channel 28 on Global Destiny Cable.

CLICK!

'Prison Break'

Three episodes of "Prison Break (Season 1)" airs back to back, every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on C/S channel.

Also on C/S this month, "Big Hit Movies" carries the theme "Men Of Valor" featuring Denzel Washington in "John Q" on July 11, Josh Hartnett and Ewan McGregor in Black Hawk Down on July 18 and John Cusack in "Identity" on July 25.

"BATTLESTAR GALACTICA"

'Battlestar Galactica'

The sci-fi television series "Battlestar Galactica," returns to Asian TV with season three premiering July 15, 9 p.m. on Cinemax.

Picking up from last season's cliffhanger, the third season continues with the Galactica crew discovering a habitable planet.

Things become more complicated when the Cylons, now in human form and led by the stunning blonde Number Six and Sharon Valeri, find the planet and offer humanity a proposal for peace.

Journey to China

In "China Fast Forward," viewers experience the many facets of the country with David Wu, who acts as guide through the modern developments and old traditions of cities including Beijing, Macau, Guangzhou and Qingdao.

DAVID WU

From Shanghai's legendary dumplings to Chengdu's volcanic hot pot, the 10-part travel series will also introduce food delights each city is famous for.

The episodes air Tuesdays starting July 24, at 10:30 p.m.; encore Sundays at 1 p.m.

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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 TRANSFORMERS / DIE HARD 4.0 12:45, 3:50 / 6:35 9:20 GP/PG-13
CINEMA 4 TRANSFORMERS 10:30, 1:30, 4:30 7:30, 10:30 GP
CINEMA 5 DIE HARD 4.0 11:00, 1:45, 4:30 7:15, 10:00 PG-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
July 7, 2007 — Feelin' Las Vegas "Willie Nep" — 8:30 PM
August 24 & 25, 2007 — Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez — 8:00 PM
T·E·A·T·R·I·N·O PROMENADE GREENHILLS
July 06, 13, 20, 27, 2007 — Drag - Ons — 10:00 PM
August 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 29-30 — Cernudo Classico Classic — 8:00 PM
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SHANG CINEPLEX
1 TRANSFORMERS MTRCB GP 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30
2 DIE HARD 4.0 MTRCB PG-13 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00
3 TRANSFORMERS MTRCB GP 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30
4 TRANSFORMERS MTRCB GP 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00
PREMIERE THEATRE DIE HARD (PG-13) 12:00, 3:10, 6:20, 9:30
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
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GLORIETTA 1	1 DIE HARD 4.0	2 TRANSFORMERS	3 DIE HARD 4.0	4 TIYANAKS
GLORIETTA 4	1 DIE HARD 4.0	2 TRANSFORMERS	3 THX DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	5 TRANSFORMERS	6 DIE HARD 4.0	7 TRANSFORMERS
GREENBELT 1	1 TRANSFORMERS	2 DIE HARD 4.0		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX DIE HARD 4.0	2 DIE HARD 4.0		
	3 TRANSFORMERS	4 DIE HARD 4.0	5 TRANSFORMERS	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 DIE HARD 4.0	2 DIE HARD 4.0	3 TRANSFORMERS	4 TRANSFORMERS
MARKET! MARKET!	1 DIE HARD 4.0	2 TIYANAKS		
	3 TRANSFORMERS	4 DIE HARD 4.0	5 TRANSFORMERS	
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	5 TRANSFORMERS	6 DIE HARD 4.0	7 THX DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS	

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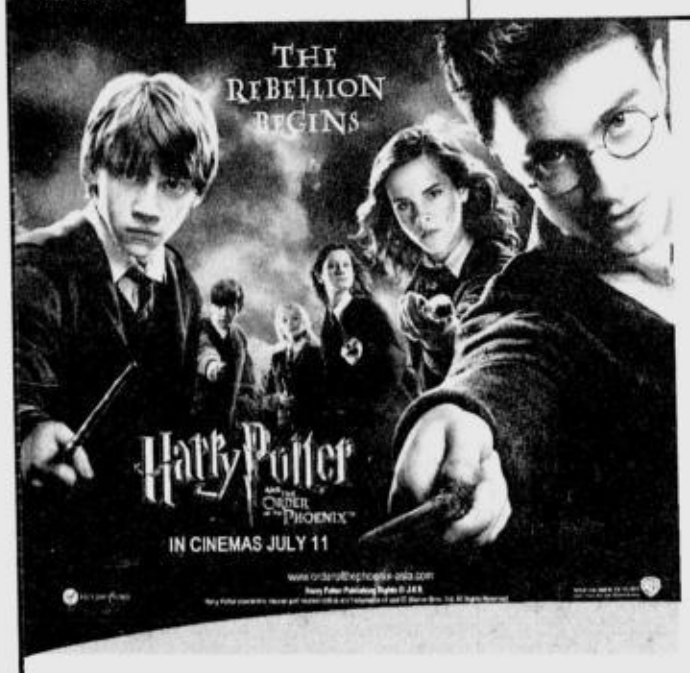
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000
Ayala
glorietta — City Finds at the Park, July 13 & 14, 2007 at Glorietta 3 Park
GREENBELT — The Fashion Sale (Up to 70% discount from participating Greenbelt 3 & 4 stores) July 1 to 15, 2007
ALABANG TOWN CENTER — Electroworld Exhibit, July 13 to 22, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU — AV Surfer Exhibit, July 1 to 15, 2007
MARKET! MARKET! — BPI Appliance Madness, July 6 to 22, 2007
Greenbelt Onstage — ONSTAGE - The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays & coporate events is now accepting bookings for May to July 2007. For bookings, pls. call 752-7862 or 757-3861
Ayala MUSEUM — Damian Domingo: The First Great Filipino Painter Exhibit - June 19 to Jan. 6, 2008. Pioneers of Philippine Art - June 15 to January 6, 2008. For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma — BARBIE BIRTHDAY BASH, July 1 (2PM & 4PM) at the Activity Center; HUMAN'S RICO BLANCO EXHIBIT, July 2 to 15 (Mall Hours) at the 1st Level Exhibit Area



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'MADE IN HEAVEN'
Facing Geneva Lake, this statue of Freddie Mercury, late front man of the rock band Queen, is surrounded by tourists last Friday in Montreux, Switzerland. The tribute statue was unveiled on Nov. 25, 1996, five years after Mercury, a long-time resident of Montreux, passed away. The monument is inspired by the cover of Queen's final album, "Made in Heaven". AFP

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Simpsons film takes dig at faith

LONDON—THE UPCOMING SIMPSONS movie takes a typically irreverent dig at religion and environmentalists, and features a nude scene involving 'toon teen Bart that had the audience at a preview show applauding.

A 10-minute clip from "The Simpsons Movie," the first time Homer, Marge, their family and friends have made it to the big screen, was shown in London Wednesday ahead of its worldwide release later this month.

The clip offered several clues as to the plot, suggesting that the environment and religion would be major themes.

Rock band Green Day is booed and pelted when it starts speaking about the environment to a Springfield crowd, while Homer's daughter Lisa is a green campaigner shunned by the town's inhabitants who simply don't care.

She may find love, however, after she swoons upon meeting a fellow campaigner from Ireland who insists he is not the son of U2 front man Bono.

Trouble to come

The Simpsons also turn up late at church, where Homer's father has a seizure and warns of trouble to come. Asked to explain this behavior, Homer flicks through a Bible, and mutters: "This book doesn't have any answers."

Perhaps the biggest laugh was for Bart, who skateboards through town naked after being challenged to do so by Homer.

After a series of scenes where strategically-placed extras and props protect his modesty, the audience gets a full view of his private parts through a gap in a hedge.

Series creator Matt Groening, speaking to the audience after the clips were screened, said he expected complaints.

"In America there's someone willing to pretend to be offended by everything and so we annoy people and that's part of the appeal," he said. "It's to entertain people and also to annoy a certain segment of the audience as well."

Series writer Al Jean agreed that there were big themes in the film, particularly the environment, but that the movie's makers did not obviously take sides.

"They are big themes, especially the environmental theme, but we always like to approach it from both sides, so later in the film when Lisa's giving a lecture about the pollution, the label of the lecture is 'An Irritating Truth'."

A romantic movie

Former US Vice President Al Gore inspired Oscar-winning climate change documentary "An Inconvenient Truth."

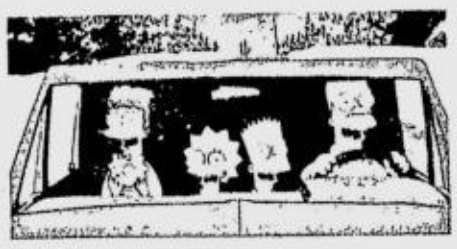
Groening said he had been thinking about making a movie based on the hit animated television series as early as 1992, but struggled to find the time.

Asked what the main message of the movie was, Jean replied: "It's that a man should listen to his wife."

Groening added: "And it's a romantic movie. Homer falls in love with a pig."

"The Simpsons Movie" enters a crowded animation movie marketplace, but Groening argued that it stood out from the majority of films in the genre.

"This really is a tribute to the art of hand-drawn animation which is basically disappearing," he said. "All the animated movies these days are computer-generated, and this is the old-fashioned, clumsy, hand-drawn ... way." *Reuters*



"THE SIMPSONS MOVIE"

SANDATA LABAN SA TERORISMO

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9372:
HUMAN SECURITY ACT OF 2007
AN ACT TO SECURE THE STATE AND PROTECT OUR PEOPLE FROM TERRORISM

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall henceforth be known as the *"Human Security Act of 2007."*

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is declared a policy of the State to protect life, liberty, and property from acts of terrorism, to condemn terrorism as inimical and dangerous to the national security of the country and to the welfare of the people, and to make terrorism a crime against the Filipino people, against humanity, and against the law of nations.

In the implementation of the policy stated above, the State shall uphold the basic rights and fundamental liberties of the people as enshrined in the Constitution.

The State recognizes that the fight against terrorism requires a comprehensive approach, comprising political, economic, diplomatic, military, and legal means duly taking into account the root causes of terrorism without acknowledging these as justifications for terrorist and or criminal activities. Such measures shall include conflict management and post-conflict peace-building, addressing the roots of conflict by building state capacity and promoting equitable economic development.

Nothing in this Act shall be interpreted as a curtailment, restriction or diminution of constitutionally recognized powers of the executive branch of the government. It is to be understood, however, that the exercise of the constitutionally recognized powers of the executive department of the government shall not prejudice respect for human rights which shall be absolute and protected at all times.

SEC. 3. Terrorism. - Any person who commits an act punishable under any of the following provisions of the Revised Penal Code:

a. Article 122 (Piracy in General and Mutiny in the High Seas or in the Philippine Waters);
b. Article 134 (Rebellion or Insurrection);
c. Article 134-a (Coup d'Etat), including acts committed by private persons;
d. Article 248 (Murder);
e. Article 267 (Kidnapping and Serious Illegal Detention);
f. Article 324 (Crimes Involving Destruction), or under

(1) Presidential Decree No. 1613 (The Law on Arson);
(2) Republic Act No. 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990);
(3) Republic Act No. 5207, (Atomic Energy Regulatory and Liability Act of 1968);
(4) Republic Act No. 6235 (Anti-Hijacking Law);
(5) Presidential Decree No. 532 (Anti-Piracy and Anti-Highway Robbery Law of 1974); and,
(6) Presidential Decree No. 1866, as amended (Decree Codifying the Laws on Illegal and Unlawful Possession, Manufacture, Dealing in, Acquisition or Disposition of Firearms, Ammunitions or Explosives)

thereby sowing and creating a condition of widespread and extraordinary fear and panic among the populace, in order to coerce the government to give in to an unlawful demand shall be guilty of the crime of terrorism and shall suffer the penalty of forty (40) years of imprisonment, without the benefit of parole as provided for under Act No. 4103, otherwise known as the Indeterminate Sentence Law, as amended.

SEC. 4. Conspiracy to Commit Terrorism. - Persons who conspire to commit the crime of terrorism shall suffer the penalty of forty (40) years of imprisonment.

There is conspiracy when two or more persons come to an agreement concerning the commission of the crime of terrorism as defined in Section 3 hereof and decide to commit the same..

SEC. 5. Accomplice. - Any person who, not being a principal under Article 17 of the Revised Penal Code or a conspirator as defined in Section 4 hereof, cooperates in the execution of either the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism by previous or simultaneous acts shall suffer the penalty of from seventeen (17) years, four months one day to twenty (20) years of imprisonment.

SEC. 6. Accessory. - Any person who, having knowledge of the commission of the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism, and without having participated therein, either as principal or accomplice under Articles 17 and 18 of the Revised Penal Code, takes part subsequent to its commission in any of the following manner: *(a) by profiting himself or assisting the offender to profit by the effects of the crime: (b) by concealing or destroying the body of the crime, or the effects, or instruments thereof, in order to prevent its discovery; (c) by harboring, concealing, or assisting in the escape of the principal or conspirator of the crime, shall suffer the penalty of ten (10) years and one day to twelve (12) years of imprisonment.*

Notwithstanding the above paragraph, the penalties prescribed for accessories shall not be imposed upon those who are such with respect to their spouses, ascendants, descendants, legitimate, natural, and adopted brothers and sisters, or relatives by affinity within the same degrees, with the single exception of accessories falling within the provisions of subparagraph (a).

SEC. 7. Surveillance of Suspects and Interception and Recording of Communications. - The provisions of Republic Act No..4200 (Anti-Wire Tapping Law) to the contrary notwithstanding, a police or law enforcement official and the members of his team may, upon a written order of the Court of Appeals, listen to, intercept and record, with the use of any mode, form, kind or type of electronic or other surveillance equipment or intercepting and tracking devices, or with the use of any other suitable ways and means for that purpose, any communication, message, conversation, discussion, or spoken or written words between members of a judicially declared and outlawed terrorist organization, association, or group of persons or of any person charged with or suspected of the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism.

Provided, That surveillance, interception and recording of communications between lawyers and clients, doctors and patients, journalists and their sources and confidential business correspondence shall not be authorized.

SEC. 8. Formal Application for Judicial Authorization. –The written order of the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals to track down, tap, listen to, intercept, and record communications, messages, conversations, discussions, or spoken or written words of any person suspected of the crime of terrorism or the crime of conspiracy to commit terrorism shall only be granted by the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals upon an ex parte written application of a police or of a law enforcement official who has been duly authorized in writing by the Anti-Terrorism Council created in Section 53 of this Act to file such ex parte application, and upon examination under oath or affirmation of the applicant and the witnesses he may produce to establish: *(a) that there is probable cause to believe based on personal knowledge of facts or circumstances that the said crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism has been committed, or is being committed, or is about to be committed; (b) that there is probable cause to believe based on personal knowledge of facts or circumstances that evidence, which is essential to the conviction of any charged or suspected person for, or to the solution or prevention of, any such crimes, will be obtained; and, (c) that there is no other effective means readily available for acquiring such evidence.*

SEC. 9. Classification and Contents of the Order of the Court. - The written order granted by the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals as well as its order, if any, to extend or renew the same, the original application of the applicant, including his application to extend or renew, if any, and the written authorizations of the Anti-Terrorism Council shall be

deemed and are hereby declared as classified information: *Provided*, That the person being surveilled or whose communications, letters, papers, messages, conversations, discussions, spoken or written words and effects have been monitored, listened to, bugged or recorded by law enforcement authorities has the right to be informed of the acts done by the law enforcement authorities in the premises or to challenge, if he or she intends to do so, the legality of the interference before the Court of Appeals which issued the written order. The written order of the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals shall specify the following: *(a) the identity, such as name and address, if known, of the charged or suspected person whose communications, messages, conversations, discussions, or spoken or written words are to be tracked down, tapped, listened to, intercepted, and recorded and, in the case of radio, electronic, or telephonic (whether wireless or otherwise) communications, messages, conversations, discussions, or spoken or written words, the electronic transmission systems or the telephone numbers to be tracked down, tapped, listened to, intercepted, and recorded and their locations or if the person suspected of the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism is not fully known, such person shall be subject to continuous surveillance provided there is a reasonable ground to do so; (b) the identity (name, address, and the police or law enforcement organization) of the police or of the law enforcement official, including the individual identity (names, addresses, and the police or law enforcement organization) of the members of his team, judicially authorized to track down, tap, listen to, intercept, and record the communications, messages, conversations, discussions, or spoken or written words; (c) the offense or offenses committed, or being committed, or sought to be prevented; and, (d) the length of time within which the authorization shall be used or carried out.*

SEC. 10. Effective Period of Judicial Authorization. - Any authorization granted by the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals, pursuant to Section 9(d) of this Act, shall only be effective for the length of time specified in the written order of the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals, which shall not exceed a period of thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the written order of the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals by the applicant police or law enforcement official.

The authorizing division of the Court of Appeals may extend or renew the said authorization for another non- extendible period, which shall not exceed thirty (30) days from the expiration of the original period: Provided, That the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals is satisfied that such extension or renewal is in the public interest: and Provided, further, That the ex parte application for extension or renewal, which must be filed by the original applicant, has been duly authorized in writing by the Anti-Terrorism Council.

In case of death of the original applicant or in case he is physically disabled to file the application for extension or renewal, the one next in rank to the original applicant among the members of the team named in the original written order of the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals shall file the application for extension or renewal: Provided, That, without prejudice to the liability of the police or law enforcement personnel under Section 20 hereof, the applicant police or law enforcement official shall have thirty (30) days after the termination of the period granted by the Court of Appeals as provided in the preceding paragraphs within which to file the appropriate case before the Public Prosecutor's Office for any violation of this Act.

If no case is filed within the thirty (30)-day period, the applicant police or law enforcement official shall immediately notify the person subject of the surveillance, interception and recording of the termination of the said surveillance, interception and recording. The penalty of ten (10) years and one day to twelve (12) years of imprisonment shall be imposed upon the applicant police or law enforcement official who fails to notify the person subject of the surveillance, monitoring, interception and recording as specified above.

SEC. 11. Custody of Intercepted and Recorded Communications. - All tapes, discs, and recordings made pursuant to the authorization of the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals, including all excerpts and summaries thereof as well as all written notes or memoranda made in connection therewith, shall, within forty-eight (48) hours after the expiration of the period fixed in the written order of the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals or within forty- eight (48) hours after the expiration of any extension or renewal granted by the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals, be deposited with the authorizing Division of the Court of Appeals in a sealed envelope or sealed package, as the case may be, and shall be accompanied by a joint affidavit of the applicant police or law enforcement official and the members of his team.

In case of death of the applicant or in case he is physically disabled to execute the required affidavit, the one next in rank to the applicant among the members of the team named in the written order of the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals shall execute with the members of the team that required affidavit.

It shall he unlawful for any person, police officer or any custodian of the tapes, discs and recording, and their excerpts and summaries, written notes or memoranda to copy in whatever form, to remove, delete, expunge, incinerate, shred or destroy in any manner the items enumerated above in whole or in part under any pretext whatsoever.

Any person who removes, deletes, expunges, incinerates, shreds or destroys the items enumerated above shall suffer a penalty of not less than six years and one day to twelve (12) years of imprisonment.

SEC. 12. Contents o f Joint Affidavit. - The joint affidavit of the police or of the law enforcement official and the individual members of his team shall state: *(a) the number of tapes, discs, and recordings that have been made, as well as the number of excerpts and summaries thereof and the number of written notes and memoranda, if any, made in connection therewith; (b) the dates and times covered by each of such tapes, discs, and recordings; (c) the number of tapes, discs, and recordings, as well as the number of excerpts and summaries thereof and the number of written notes and memoranda made in connection therewith that have been included in the deposit; and (d) the date of the original written authorization granted by the Anti-Terrorism Council to the applicant to file the ex parte application to conduct the tracking down, tapping, intercepting, and recording, as well as the date of any extension or renewal of the original written authority granted by the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals.*

The joint affidavit shall also certify under oath that no duplicates or copies of the whole or any part of any of such tapes, discs, and recordings, and that no duplicates or copies of the whole or any part of any of such excerpts, summaries, written notes, and memoranda, have been made, or, if made, that all such duplicates and copies are included in the sealed envelope or sealed package, as the case may be, deposited with the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals.

It shall be unlawful for any person, police or law enforcement official to omit or exclude from the joint affidavit any item or portion thereof mentioned in this Section.

Any person, police or law enforcement officer who violates any of the acts proscribed in the preceding paragraph shall suffer the penalty of not less than ten (10) years and one day to twelve (12) years of imprisonment.

SEC. 13. Disposition of Deposited Materials. - The sealed envelope or sealed package and the contents thereof, which are deposited with the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals, shall be deemed and are hereby declared classified information, and the sealed envelope or sealed package shall not be opened and its contents (including the tapes, discs, and recordings and all the excerpts and summaries thereof and the notes and memoranda made in connection therewith) shall not be divulged, revealed, read, replayed, or used as evidence unless authorized by written order of the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals, which written order shall be granted only upon a written application of the Department of Justice filed before the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals and only upon a showing that the Department of Justice has been duly authorized in writing by the Anti-Terrorism Council to file the application with proper written notice the person whose conversation, communication, message discussion or spoken or written words have been the subject of surveillance, monitoring, recording and interception to open, reveal, divulge, and use the contents of the sealed envelope or sealed package as evidence.

Any person, law enforcement official or judicial authority who violates his duty to notify in writing the persons subject of the surveillance as defined above shall suffer the penalty of six years and one day to eight years of imprisonment.

SEC. 14. Application to Open Deposited Sealed Envelope or Sealed Package. - The written application with notice to the party concerned to open the deposited sealed envelope or sealed package shall clearly state the purpose or reason: *(a) for opening the sealed envelope or sealed package; (b) forrevealing or disclosing its classified contents; (c) for replaying, divulging, and or reading any of the listened to, intercepted, and recorded communications, messages, conversations, discussions, or spoken or written words (including any of the excerpts and summaries thereof and any of the notes or memoranda made in connection therewith); and, (d) for using any of said listened to, intercepted, and recorded communications, messages, conversations, discussions, or spoken or written words (including any of the excerpts and summaries thereof and any of the notes or memoranda made in connection therewith) as evidence.*

Any person, law enforcement official or judicial authority who violates his duty to notify as defined above shall suffer the penalty of six years and one day to eight years of imprisonment.

SEC. 15. Evidentiary Value of Deposited Materials. – Any listened to, intercepted, and recorded communications, messages, conversations, discussions, or spoken or written words, or any part or parts thereof, or any information or fact contained therein, including their existence, content, substance, purport, effect, or meaning, which have been secured in violation of the pertinent provisions of this Act, shall absolutely not be admissible and usable as evidence against anybody in any judicial, quasi-judicial, legislative, or administrative investigation, inquiry, proceeding, or hearing.

SEC. 16. Penalty for Unauthorized or Malicious Interceptions and/or Recordings. - Any police or law enforcement personnel who, not being authorized to do so by the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals, tracks down, taps, listens to, intercepts, and records in whatever manner or form any communication, message, conversation, discussion, or spoken or written word of a person charged with or suspected of the crime of terrorism or the crime of conspiracy to commit terrorism shall be guilty of an offense and shall suffer the penalty of ten (10) years and one day **to** twelve (12) years of imprisonment.

In addition to the liability attaching to the offender for the commission of any other offense, the penalty of ten (10) years and one day to twelve (12) years of imprisonment and the accessory penalty of perpetual absolute disqualification from public office shall be imposed upon any police or law enforcement personnel who maliciously obtained an authority from t h e , Court of Appeals to track down, tap, listen to, intercept, and record in whatever manner or form any communication, message, conversation, discussion, or spoken or written words of a person charged with or suspected of the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism: *Provided*, That notwithstanding Section **13** of this Act, the party aggrieved by such authorization shall be allowed access to the sealed envelope or sealed package and the contents thereof as evidence for the prosecution of any police or law enforcement personnel who maliciously procured said authorization.

SEC. 17. Proscription of Terrorist Organizations, Association, or Group of Persons. - Any organization, association, or group of persons organized for the purpose of engaging in terrorism, or which, although not organized for that purpose, actually uses the acts to terrorize mentioned in this Act or to sow and create a condition of widespread and extraordinary fear and panic among the populace in order to coerce the government to give in to an unlawful demand shall, upon application of the Department of Justice before a competent Regional Trial Court, with due notice and opportunity to be heard given to the organization, association, or group of persons concerned, be declared as a terrorist and outlawed organization, association, or group of persons by the said Regional Trial Court.

SEC. 18. Period of Detention Without Judicial Warrant of Arrest. - The provisions of Article 125 of the Revised Penal Code to the contrary notwithstanding, any police or law enforcement personnel, who, having been duly authorized in writing by the Anti-Terrorism Council has taken custody of a person charged with or suspected of the crime of

terrorism or the crime of conspiracy to commit terrorism shall, without incurring any criminal liability for delay in the delivery of detained persons to the proper judicial authorities, deliver said charged or suspected person to the proper judicial authority within a period of three days counted from the moment the said charged or suspected person has been apprehended or arrested, detained, and taken into custody by the said police, or law enforcement personnel: *Provided,* That the arrest of those suspected of the crime of terrorism or conspiracy t o commit terrorism must result from the surveillance under Section 7 and examination of bank deposits under Section 27 of this Act.

The police or law enforcement personnel concerned shall, before detaining the person suspected of the crime of terrorism, present him or her before any judge at the latter's residence or office nearest the place where the arrest took place at any time of the day or night. It shall be the duty of the judge, among other things, to ascertain the identity of the police or law enforcement personnel and the person or persons they have arrested and presented before him or her, to inquire of them the reasons why they have arrested the person and determine by questioning and personal observation whether or not the suspect has been subjected to any physical, moral or psychological torture by whom and why. The judge shall then submit a written report of what he/she had observed when the subject was brought before him to the proper court that has jurisdiction over the case of the person thus arrested.

The judge shall forthwith submit his / her report within three calendar days from the time the suspect was brought to his / her residence or office.

Immediately after taking custody of a person charged with or suspected of the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism, the police or law enforcement personnel shall notify in writing the judge of the court nearest the place of apprehension or arrest: *Provided,* That where the arrest is made during Saturdays, Sundays, holidays or after office hours, the written notice shall be served at the residence of the judge nearest the place where the accused was arrested. The penalty of ten (10) years and one day to twelve (12) years of imprisonment shall be imposed upon the police or law enforcement personnel who fails to not & any judge as provided in the preceding paragraph.

SEC. 19. Period of Detention in fie Event of an Actual or Imminent Terrorist Attack. - In the event of an actual or imminent terrorist attack, suspects may not be detained for more than three days without the written approval of a municipal, city, provincial or regional official of a Human Rights Commission or judge of the municipal, regional trial court, the Sandiganbayan or a justice of the Court of Appeals nearest the place of the arrest. If the arrest is made during Saturdays, Sundays, holidays or after office hours, the arresting police or law enforcement personnel shall bring the person thus arrested to the residence of any of the officials mentioned above that is nearest the place where the accused was arrested. The approval in writing of any of the said officials shall be secured by the police or law enforcement personnel concerned within five days after the date of the detention of the persons concerned: *Provided, however,* That within three days after the detention the suspects, whose connection with the terror attack or threat is not established, shall be released immediately.

SEC. 20. Penalty for Failure to Deliver Suspect to the Proper Judicial Authority within Three Days. - The penalty of ten (10) years and one day to twelve (12) years of imprisonment shall be imposed upon any police or law enforcement personnel who has apprehended or arrested, detained and taken custody of a person charged with or suspected of the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism and fails to deliver such charged or suspected person to the proper judicial authority within the period of three days.

SEC. 21. Rights of a Person under Custodial Detention.- The moment a person charged with or suspected of the crime of terrorism or the crime of conspiracy to commit terrorism is apprehended or arrested and detained, he shall forthwith be informed, by the arresting police or law enforcement officers or by the police or law enforcement officers to whose custody the person concerned is brought, of his or her right: *(a) to be informed of the nature and cause of his arrest, to remain silent and to have competent and independent counsel preferably of his choice. If the person cannot afford the services of counsel of his or her choice, the police or law enforcement officers concerned shall immediately contact the free legal assistance unit of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) or the Public Attorney's Office (PAO). It shall be the duty of the free legal assistance unit of the IBP or the PAO' thus contacted to immediately visit the person(s) detained and provide him or her with legal assistance. These rights cannot be waived except in writing and in the presence of the counsel of choice; (b) informed of the cause or causes of his detention in the presence of his legal counsel; (c) allowed to communicate freely with his legal counsel and to confer with them at any time without restriction; (d) allowed to communicate freely and privately without restrictions with the members of his family or with his nearest relatives and to be visited by them; and, (e) allowed freely to avail of the service of a physician or physicians of choice.*

SEC. 22. Penalty for Violation of the Rights of a Detainee. - Any police or law enforcement personnel, or any personnel of the police or other law enforcement custodial unit that violates any of the aforesaid rights of a person charged with or suspected of the crime of terrorism or the crime of conspiracy to commit terrorism shall be guilty of an offense and shall suffer the penalty of ten (10) years and one day to twelve (12) years of imprisonment.

Unless the police or law enforcement personnel who violated the rights of a detainee or detainees as stated above is duly identified, the same penalty shall be imposed on the police officer or head or leader of the law enforcement unit having custody of the detainee at the time the violation was done.

SEC. 23. Requirement for an Official Custodial Logbook and its Contents. - The police or other law enforcement custodial unit in whose care and control the person charged with or suspected of the crime of terrorism or the crime of conspiracy to commit terrorism has been placed under custodial arrest and detention shall keep a securely and orderly maintained official logbook, which is hereby declared as a public document and opened to and made available for the inspection and scrutiny of the lawyer or lawyers of the person under custody or any member of his or her family or relative by consanguinity or affinity within the fourth civil degree or his or her physician at any time of the day or night without any form of restriction. The logbook shall contain a clear and concise record of: *(a) the name, description, and address of the detained person; (b) the date and exact time of his initial admission for custodial arrest and detention; (c) the name and address of the physician or physicians who examined him physically and medically; (d) the state of his health and is physical condition at the time of his initial admission for -custodial detention; (e) the date and time of each removal of the detained person from his cell for interrogation or for any purpose; (f) the date and time of his return to his cell; (g) the name and address of the physician or physicians who physically and medically examined him after each interrogation; (h) a summary of the physical and medical findings on the detained persòn after each of such interrogation; (i) the names and addresses of his family members and nearest relatives, if any and if available; (j) the names and addresses of persons who visit the detained person; (k) the date and time of each of such visits; (1) the date and time of each request of the detained person to communicate and confer with his legal counsel or counsels: (m) the date and time of each visit, and date and time of each departure of his legal counsel or counsels; and, (n) all other important events bearing on and all relevant details regarding the treatment of the detained person while under custodial arrest and detention.*

The said police or law enforcement custodial unit shall upon demand of the aforementioned lawyer or lawyers or members of the family or relatives within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity of the person under custody or his or her physician issue a certified true copy of the entries of the logbook relative to the concerned detained person without delay or restriction or requiring any fees whatsoever including documentary stamp tax, notarial fees, and the like. This certified true copy may be attested by the person who has custody of the logbook or who allowed the party concerned to scrutinize it at the time the demand for the certified true copy is made.

The police or other law enforcement custodial unit who fails to comply with the preceding paragraph to keep an official logbook shall suffer the penalty of ten (10) years and one day to twelve (12) years of imprisonment.

SEC. 24. No Torture or Coercion in Investigation and Interrogation. - No threat, intimidation, or coercion, and no act which will inflict any form of physical pain or torment, or mental, moral, or psychological pressure, on the detained person, which shall vitiate his free-will, shall be employed in his investigation and interrogation for the crime of terrorism or the crime of conspiracy to commit terrorism; otherwise, the evidence obtained from said detained person resulting from such threat, intimidation, or coercion, or from such inflicted physical pain or torment, or mental, moral, or psychological pressure, shall be, in its entirety, absolutely not admissible and usable as evidence in any judicial, quasi-judicial, legislative, or administrative investigation, inquiry, proceeding, or hearing.

SEC. 25. Penalty for Threat, Intimidation, Coercion, or Torture in the Investigation and Interrogation of a Detained Person. - Any person or persons who use threat, intimidation, or coercion, or who inflict physical pain or torment, or mental, moral, or psychological pressure, which shall vitiate the free- will of a charged or suspected person under investigation and interrogation for the crime of terrorism or the crime of conspiracy to commit terrorism shall be guilty of an offense and shall suffer the penalty of twelve (12) years and one day to twenty (20) years of imprisonment.

When death or serious permanent disability of said detained person occurs as a consequence of the use of such threat, intimidation, or coercion, or as a consequence of the infliction on him of such physical pain or torment, or as a consequence of the infliction on him of such mental, moral, or psychological pressure, the penalty shall be twelve (12) years and one day to twenty (20) years of imprisonment.

SEC. 26. Restriction on Travel - In cases where evidence of guilt is not strong, and the person charged with the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism is entitled to bail and is granted the same, the court, upon application by the prosecutor, shall limit the right of travel of the accused to within the municipality or city where he resides or where the case is pending, in the interest of national security and public safety, consistent with Article III, Section 6 of the Constitution. Travel outside of said municipality or city, without the authorization of the court, shall be deemed a violation of the terms and conditions of his bail, which shall then be forfeited as provided under the Rules of Court.

He/she may also be placed under house arrest by order of the court at his or her usual place of residence. While under house arrest, he or she may not use telephones, cell phones, e-mails, computers, the internet or other means of communications with people outside the residence until otherwise ordered by the court.

The restrictions abovementioned shall be terminated upon the acquittal of the accused or of the dismissal of the case filed against him or earlier upon the discretion of the court on motion of the prosecutor or of the accused.

SEC. 27. Judicial Authorization Required to Examine Bank Deposits, Accounts, and Records. - The provisions of Republic Act No. 1405 as amended, to the contrary not withstanding, the justices of the Court of Appeals designated as a special court to handle anti-terrorism cases after satisfying themselves of the existence of probable cause in a hearing called for that purpose that: (1) *a person charged with or suspected of the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism,* (2) *of a judicially declared and outlawed terrorist organization, association, or group of persons; and* (3) *of a member of such judicially declared and outlawed organization, association, or group of persons, may authorize in writing any police or law enforcement officer and the members of his / her team duly authorized in writing by the anti-terrorism council to: (a) examine, or cause the examination of, the deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets and records in a bank or financial institution; and (b) gather or cause the gathering of any relevant information about such deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets, and records from a bank or financial institution.* The bank or financial institution concerned shall not refuse to allow such examination or to provide the desired information, when so ordered by and served with the written order of the Court of Appeals.

SEC. 28. Application to Examine Bank Deposits, Accounts, and Records. - The written order of the Court of Appeals authorizing the examination of bank deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets, and records: (1) *of a person charged with or suspected of the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism;* (2) *of any judicially declared and*

outlawed terrorist organization, association, or group of persons, or (3) *of any member of such organization, association, or group of persons in a bank or financial institution, and the gathering of any relevant information about the same from said bank or financial institution, shall only be granted by the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals upon an ex parte application t o that effect of a police or of a law enforcement official who has been duly authorized in writing to file such ex parte application by the Anti-Terrorism Council created in Section 53 of this Act to file such ex parte application, and upon examination under oath or affirmation of the applicant and the witnesses he may produce to establish the facts that will justify the need and urgency of examining and freezing the bank deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets, and records:* (1) *of the person charged with or suspected of the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism;* (2) *of a judicially declared and outlawed terrorist organization, association or group of persons; or* (3) *of any member of such organization, association, or group of persons.*

SEC. 29. Classification and Contents of the Court Order Authorizing the Examination of Bank Deposits, Accounts and Records. - The written order granted by the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals as well as its order, if any, to extend or renew the same, the original ex parte application of the applicant, including his ex-parte application to extend or renew, if any, and the written authorizations of the Anti- Terrorism Council, shall be deemed and are hereby declared as classified information: Provided, That the person whose bank deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets, and records have been examined, frozen, sequestered and seized by law enforcement authorities has the right to be informed of the acts done by the law enforcement authorities in the premises or to challenge, if he or she intends to do so, the legality of the interference. The written order of the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals designated to handle cases involving terrorism shall specify: *(a) the identity of the said:* (1) *person charged with or suspected of the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism;* (2) *judicially declared and outlawed terrorist organization, association, or group of persons; and* (3) *member of such judicially declared and outlawed organization, association, or group of persons, as the case may be, whose deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets, and records are to be examined or the information to be gathered; (b) the identity of the bank or financial institution where such deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets, and records are held and maintained; (c) the identity of the persons who will conduct the said examination and the gathering of the desired information; and, (d) the length of time the authorization shall be carried out.*

SEC. 30. Effective Period of Court Authorization to Examine and Obtain Information on Bank Deposits, Accounts, and Records. - The authorization issued or granted by the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals to examine or cause the examination of and to freeze bank deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets, and records, or to gather information about the same, shall be effective for the length of time specified in the written order of the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals, which shall not exceed a period of thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the written order of the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals by the applicant police or law enforcement official.

The authorizing division of the Court of Appeals may extend or renew the said authorization for another period, which shall not exceed thirty (30) days renewable to another thirty (30) days from the expiration of the original period: Provided, That the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals is satisfied that such extension or renewal is in the public interest: and, Provided, further, That the application for extension or renewal, which must be filed by the original applicant, has been duly authorized in writing by the Anti- Terrorism Council.

In case of death of the original applicant or in case he is physically disabled to file the application for extension or renewal, the one next in rank to the original applicant among the members of the team named in the original written order of the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals shall file the application for extension or renewal: Provided, That, without prejudice to the liability of the police or law enforcement personnel under Section 19 hereof, the applicant police or law enforcement official shall have thirty (30) days after the termination of the period granted by the Court of Appeals as provided in the preceding paragraphs within which to file the appropriate case before the Public Prosecutor's Office for any violation of this Act.

If no case is filed within the thirty (30)-day period, the applicant police or law enforcement official shall immediately notify in writing the person subject of the bank examination and freezing of bank deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets and records. The penalty of ten (10) years and one day to twelve (12) years of imprisonment shall be imposed upon the applicant police or law enforcement official who fails to notify in writing the person subject of the bank examination and freezing of bank deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets and records.

Any person, law enforcement official or judicial authority who violates his duty to notify in writing as defined above shall suffer the penalty of six years and one day to eight years of imprisonment.

SEC. 31. Custody of Bank Data and Information Obtained after Examination of Deposits, Placements, Trust Accounts, Assets and Records. - All information, data, excerpts, summaries, notes, memoranda, working sheets, reports, and other documents obtained from the examination of the bank deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets and records of: (1) *a person charged with or suspected of the crime of terrorism or the crime of conspiracy to commit terrorism;* (2) *a judicially declared and outlawed terrorist organization, association, or group of persons; or* (3) *a member of any such organization, association, or group of persons shall, within forty-eight (48) hours after the expiration of the period fixed in the written order of the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals or within forty-eight (48) hours after the expiration of the extension or renewal granted by the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals, be deposited with the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals in a sealed envelope or sealed package, as the case may be, and shall be accompanied by a joint affidavit of the applicant police or law enforcement official and the persons who actually conducted the examination of said bank deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets and records.*

SEC. 32. Contents of Joint Affidavit. - The joint affidavit shall state: *(a) the identifying marks, numbers, or symbols of the deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets, and records examined; (b) the identity and address of the bank or financial institution where such deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets, and records are held and maintained; (c) the number of bank deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets, and records discovered, examined, and frozen; (d) the outstanding balances of each of such deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets; (e) all information, data, excerpts, summaries, notes, memoranda, working sheets, reports, documents, records examined and placed in the sealed envelope or sealed package deposited with the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals:(f) the date of the original written authorization granted by the Anti-Terrorism Council to the applicant to file the ex parte application to conduct the examination of the said bank deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets and records, as well as the date of any extension or renewal of the original written authorization granted by the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals; and (g) that the items enumerated were all that were found in the bank or financial institution examined at the time of the completion of the examination.*

The joint affidavit shall also certify under oath that no duplicates or copies of the information, data, excerpts, summaries, notes, memoranda, working sheets, reports, and documents acquired from the examination of the bank deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets and records have been made, or, if made, that all such duplicates and copies are placed in the sealed envelope or sealed package deposited with the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals.

It shall be unlawful for any person, police officer or custodian of the bank data and information obtained after examination of deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets and records to copy, to remove, delete, expunge, incinerate, shred or destroy in any manner the items enumerated above in whole or in part under any pretext whatsoever.

Any person who copies, removes, deletes, expunges, incinerates, shreds or destroys the items enumerated above shall suffer a penalty of not less than six years and one day to twelve (12) years of imprisonment.

SEC. 33. Disposition of Bank Materials. - The sealed envelope or sealed package and the contents thereof, which are deposited with the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals, shall be deemed and are hereby declared classified information, and the sealed envelope or sealed package shall not be opened and its contents shall not be divulged, revealed, read, or used as evidence unless authorized in a written order of the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals, which written order shall be granted only upon a written application of the Department of Justice filed before the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals and only upon a showing that the Department of Justice has been duly authorized in writing by the Anti-Terrorism Council to file the application, with notice in writing to the party concerned not later than three days before the scheduled opening, to open, reveal, divulge, and use the contents of the sealed envelope or sealed package as evidence.

Any person, law enforcement official or judicial authority who violates his duty to notify in writing as defined above shall suffer the penalty of six years and one day to eight years of imprisonment.

SEC. 34. Application to Open Deposited Bank Materials.- The written application, with notice in writing to the party concerned not later than three days of the scheduled opening, to open the sealed envelope or sealed package shall clearly state the purpose and reason: *(a) for opening the sealed envelope or sealed package; (b) for revealing and disclosing its classified contents; and, (c) for using the classified information, data, excerpts, summaries, notes, memoranda, working sheets, reports, and documents as evidence.* '

SEC. 35. Evidentiary Value of Deposited Bank Materials. - Any information, data, excerpts, summaries, notes, memoranda, work sheets, reports, or documents acquired from the examination of the bank deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets and records of (1) *a person charged or suspected of the crime of terrorism or the crime of conspiracy to commit terrorism;* (2) *a judicially declared and outlawed terrorist organization, association, or group of persons; or* (3) *a member of such organization, association, or group of persons, which have been secured in violation of the provisions of this Act, shall absolutely not be admissible and usable as evidence against anybody in any judicial, quasi-judicial, legislative, or administrative investigation, inquiry, proceeding, or hearing.*

SEC. 36. Penalty for Unauthorized or Malicious Examination of a Bank or a Financial Institution. Any person, police or law enforcement personnel who examines the deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets, or records in a bank or financial institution of: (1) *a person charged with or suspected of the crime of terrorism or the crime of conspiracy to commit terrorism;* (2) *a judicially declared and outlawed terrorist organization, association, or group of persons; or* (3) *a member of such organization, association, or group of persons, without being authorized to do so by the Court of Appeals, shall be guilty of an offense and shall suffer the penalty of ten (10) years and one day to twelve (12) years of imprisonment. In addition to the liability attaching to the offender for the commission of any other offense, the penalty of ten (10) years and one day to twelve (12) years of imprisonment shall be imposed upon any police or law enforcement personnel, who maliciously obtained an authority from the Court of Appeals to examine the deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets, or records in a bank or financial institution of:* (1) *a person charged with or suspected of the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism;* (2) *a judicially declared and outlawed terrorist organization, association, or group of persons; or* (3) *a member of such organization, association, or group of persons: Provided, That notwithstanding Section 33 of this Act, the party aggrieved by such authorization shall upon motion duly filed be allowed access to the sealed envelope or sealed package and the contents thereof as evidence for the prosecution of any police or law enforcement personnel who maliciously procured said authorization.*

SEC. 37. Penalty of Bank Officials and Employees Defying a Court Authorization. - An employee, official, or a member of the board of directors of a bank or financial institution, who refuses to allow the examination of the deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets, and records of: (1) *a person charged with or suspected of the crime of terrorism or the crime of conspiracy to commit terrorism;* (2) *a judicially declared and outlawed terrorist organization, associahon, or group of persons; or* (3) *a member of such judicially declared and outlawed organization, association, or group of persons in said bank or financial institution, when duly served with the written order of the authorizing division of the Court of Appeals, shall be guilty of an offense and shall suffer the penalty of ten (10) years and one day to twelve (12) years of imprisonment.*

SEC. 38. Penalty for False or Untruthful Statement or Misrepresentation of Material Fact in Joint Affidavits. – Any false or untruthful statement or misrepresentation of material fact in the joint affidavits required respectively in Section 12 and Section 32 of this Act shall constitute a criminal offense and the affiants shall suffer individually the penalty of ten (10) years and one day to twelve (12) years of imprisonment.

SEC. 39. Seizure and Sequestration. - The deposits and their outstanding balances, placements, trust accounts, assets, and records in any bank or financial institution, moneys, businesses, transportation and communication equipment, supplies and other implements, and property of whatever kind and nature belonging: **(1)** *to any person suspected of or charged before a competent Regional Trial Court for the crime of terrorism or the crime of conspiracy to commit terrorism;* **(2)** *to a judicially declared and outlawed organization, association, or group of persons; or* **(3)** *to a member of such organization, association, or group of persons shall be seized, sequestered, and frozen in order to prevent their use, transfer, or conveyance for purposes that are inimical to the safety and security of the people or injurious to the interest of the State.*

The accused or a person suspected of may withdraw such sums as may be reasonably needed by the monthly needs of his family including the services of his or her counsel and his or her family's medical needs upon approval of the court. He or she may also use any of his property that is under seizure or sequestration or frozen because of his/her indictment as a terrorist upon permission of the court for any legitimate reason.

Any person who unjustifiably refuses to follow the order of the proper division of the Court of Appeals to allow the person accused of the crime of terrorism or of the crime of conspiracy to commit terrorism to withdraw such sums from sequestered or frozen deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets and records as may be necessary for the regular sustenance of his/her family or to use any of his/her property that has been seized, sequestered or frozen for legitimate purposes while his/her case is pending shall suffer the penalty of ten (10) years and one day to twelve (12) years of imprisonment.

SEC. 40. Nature of Seized, Sequestered and Frozen Bank Deposits, Placements, Trust Accounts, Assets and Records. - The seized, sequestered and frozen bank deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets and records belonging to a person suspected of or charged with the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism shall be deemed as property held in trust by the bank or financial institution for such person and the government during the pendency of the investigation of the person suspected of or during the pendency of the trial of the person charged with any of the said crimes, as the case may be and their use or disposition while the case is pending shall be subject to the approval of the court before which the case or cases are pending.

SEC. 41. Disposition of the Seized, Sequestered and Frozen Bank Deposits, Placements, Trust Accounts, Assets and Record. - If the person suspected of or charged with the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism is found, after his investigation, to be innocent by the investigating body, or is acquitted, after his arraignment or his case is dismissed before his arraignment by a competent court, the seizure, sequestration and freezing of his bank deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets and records shall forthwith be deemed lifted by the investigating body or by the competent court, as the case may be, and his bank deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets and records shall be deemed released from such seizure, sequestration and freezing, and shall be restored to him without any delay by the bank or financial institution concerned without any further action on his part. The filing of any appeal on motion for reconsideration shall not state the release of said funds from seizure, sequestration and freezing.

If the person charged with the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism is convicted by a final judgment of a competent trial court, his seized, sequestered and frozen bank deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets and records shall be automatically forfeited in favor of the government.

Upon his or her acquittal or the dismissal of the charges against him or her, the amount of Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) a day for the period in which his properties, assets or funds were seized shall be paid to him on the concept of liquidated damages. The amount shall be taken from the appropriations of the police or law enforcement agency that caused the filing of the enumerated charges against him/her.

SEC. 42. Penalty for Unjustified Refusal to Restore or Delay in Restoring Seized, Sequestered and Frozen Bank Deposits, Placements, Trust Accounts, Assets and Records. - Any person who unjustifiably refuses to restore or delays the restoration of seized, sequestered and frozen bank deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets and records of a person suspected of or charged with the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism after such suspected person has been found innocent by the investigating body or after the case against such charged person has been dismissed or after he is acquitted by a competent court shall suffer the penalty of ten (10) years and one day to twelve (12) years of imprisonment.

SEC. 43. Penalty for the Loss, Misuse, Diversion or Dissipation of Seized Sequestered and Frozen Bank Deposits, Placements, Trust Accounts, Assets and Records. Any person who is responsible for the loss, misuse, diversion, or dissipation of the whole or any part of the seized, sequestered and frozen bank deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets and records of a person suspected of or charged with the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism shall suffer the penalty of ten (10) years and one day to twelve (12) years of imprisonment.

SEC. 44. Infidelity in the Custody of Detained Persons.- Any public officer who has direct custody of a detained person under the provisions of this Act and who by his deliberate act, misconduct, or inexcusable negligence causes or allows the escape of such detained person shall be guilty of an offense and shall suffer the penalty of (a) twelve (12) years and one day to twenty (20) years of imprisonment, if the detained person has already been convicted and sentenced in a final judgment of a competent court; and (b) six years and one day to twelve (12) years of imprisonment, if the detained person has not been convicted and sentenced in a final judgment of a competent court.

SEC. 45. Immunity and Protection of Government Witnesses. - The provisions of Republic Act No. 6981 (Witness Protection, Security and Benefits Act) to the contrary notwithstanding, the immunity of government witnesses testifying under this Act shall be governed by Sections 17 and 18 of Rule 119 of the Rules of Court: Provided however That said witnesses shall be entitled to benefits granted tc witnesses under said Republic Act No. 6981.

SEC. 46. Penalty for Unauthorized Revelation of Classified Materials. - The penalty of ten (10) years and one day to twelve (12) years of imprisonment shall be imposed upon any person, police or law enforcement agent, judicial officer or civil servant who, not being authorized by the Court of Appeals to do so, reveals in any manner or form any classified information under this Act.

SEC. 47. Penalty for Furnishing False Evidence, Forged Document, or Spurious Evidence. - The penalty of twelve (12) years and one day to twenty (20) years of imprisonment shall be imposed upon any person who knowingly furnishes false testimony, forged document or spurious evidence in any investigation or hearing under this Act.

SEC. 48. Continuous Trial. - In cases of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism, the judge shall set the case for continuous trial on a daily basis from Monday to Friday or other short-term trial calendar so as to ensure speedy trial.

SEC. 49. Prosecution Under This Act Shall be a Bar to Another Prosecution under the Revised Penal Code or any Special Penal Laws. - When a person has been prosecuted under a provision of this Act, upon a valid complaint or information or other formal charge sufficient in form and substance to sustain a conviction and after the accused had pleaded to the charge, the acquittal of the accused or the dismissal of the case shall be a bar to another prosecution for any offense or felony which is necessarily included in the offense charged under this Act.

SEC. 50. Damages for Unproven Charge of Terrorism. - Upon acquittal, any person who is accused of terrorism shall be entitled to the payment of damages in the amount of Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) for every day that he or she has been detained or deprived of liberty or arrested without a warrant as a result of such an accusation. The amount of damages shall be automatically charged against the appropriations of the police agency or the Anti-Terrorism Council that brought or sanctioned the filing of the charges against the accused. It shall also be released within fifteen (15) days from the date of the acquittal of the accused. The award of damages mentioned above shall be without prejudice to the right of the acquitted accused to file criminal or administrative charges against those responsible for charging him with the case of terrorism.

Any officer, employee, personnel, or person who delays the release or refuses to release the amounts awarded to the individual acquitted of the crime of terrorism as directed in the paragraph immediately preceding shall suffer the penalty of six months of imprisonment.

If the deductions are less than the amounts due to the detained persons, the amount needed to complete the compensation shall be taken from the current appropriations for intelligence, emergency, social or other funds of the Office of the President.

In the event that the amount cannot be covered by the current budget of the police or law enforcement agency concerned, the amount shall be automatically included in the appropriations of the said agency for the coming year.

SEC. 51. Dirty to Record and Report the Name and Address of the Informant. - The police or law enforcement officers to whom the name of a suspect in the crime of terrorism was first revealed shall record the real name and the specific address of the informant.

The police or law enforcement officials concerned shall report the informant's name and address to their superior officer who shall transmit the information to the Congressional Oversight Committee or to the proper court within five days after the suspect was placed under arrest or his properties were sequestered, seized or frozen.

The name and address of the informant shall be considered confidential and shall not be unnecessarily revealed until after the proceedings against the suspect shall have been terminated.

SEC. 52. Applicability of the Revised Penal Code. - The provisions of Book I of the Revised Penal Code shall be applicable to this Act.

SEC. 53. Anti-Terrorism Council. - An Anti-Terrorism Council, hereinafter referred to, for brevity, as the "Council," is hereby created. The members of the Council are: **(1)** *the Executive Secretary, who shall be its Chairperson;* **(2)** *the Secretary of Justice, who shall be its Vice Chairperson; and* **(3)** *the Secretary of Foreign Affairs;* **(4)** *the Secretary of National Defense;* **(5)** *the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government;* **(6)** *the Secretary of Finance; and* **(7)** *the National Security Advisor, as its other members.*

The Council shall implement this Act and assume the responsibility for the proper and effective implementation of the anti-terrorism policy of the country. The Council shall keep records of its proceedings and decisions. All records of the Council shall be subject t o such security classifications as the Council may, in its judgment and discretion, decide to adopt to safeguard the safety of the people, the security of the Republic, and the welfare of the nation.

The National Intelligence Coordinating Agency shall be the Secretariat of the Council. The Council shall define the powers, duties, and functions of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency as Secretariat of the Council. The National Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Immigration, the Office of Civil Defense, the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Anti-Money Laundering Council, the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime, and the Philippine National Police intelligence and investigative elements shall serve as support agencies for the Council.

The Council shall formulate and adopt comprehensive, adequate, efficient, and effective anti-terrorism plans, programs, and counter-measures to suppress and eradicate terrorism in the country and to protect the people from acts of terrorism. Nothing herein shall be interpreted to empower the Anti- Terrorism Council to exercise any judicial or quasi-judicial power or authority.

SEC. 54. Functions of the Council. - In pursuit of its mandate in the previous Section, the Council shall have the following functions with due regard for the rights of the people as mandated by the Constitution and pertinent laws:

1. *Formulate and adopt plans, programs and counter-measures against terrorists and acts of terrorism in the country;*

2. *Coordinate all national efforts to suppress and eradicate acts of terrorism in the country and mobilize the entire nation against terrorism proscribed in this Act;*

3. *Direct the speedy investigation and prosecution of all persons accused or detained for the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism and other offenses punishable under this Act, and monitor the progress of their cases;*

4. *Establish and maintain comprehensive data-base information systems on terrorism, terrorist activities, and counter-terrorism operations;*

5. *Freeze the funds property, bank deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets and records belonging to a person suspected of or charged with the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism, pursuant to Republic Act No. 9160, otherwise known as the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001, as amended;*

6. *Grant monetary rewards and other incentives to informers who give vital information leading to the apprehension, arrest, detention, prosecution, and conviction of person or persons who are liable for the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism;*

7. *Establish and maintain coordination with and the cooperation and assistance of other nations in the struggle against international terrorism; and*

8. *Request the Supreme Court to designate specific divisions of the Court of Appeals and Regional Trial*

Courts in Manila, Cebu City and Cagayan de Oro City, as the case may be, to handle all cases involving the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism and all matters incident to said crimes. The Secretary of Justice shall assign a team of prosecutors from: (a) Luzon to handle terrorism cases filed in the Regional Trial Court in Manila; (b) from the Visayas to handle cases filed in Cebu City; and (c) from Mindanao to handle cases filed in Cagayan de Oro City.

SEC. 55. Role of the Commission on Human Rights. - The Commission on Human Rights shall give the highest priority to the investigation and prosecution of violations of civil and political rights of persons in relation to the implementation of this Act; and for this purpose, the Commission shall have the concurrent jurisdiction to prosecute public officials, law enforcers, and other persons who may have violated the civil and political rights of persons suspected of, accused of, or detained for the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism.

SEC. 56. Creation of a Grievance Committee. – There is hereby created a Grievance Committee composed of the Ombudsman, as chair, and the Solicitor General, and an undersecretary from the Department of Justice (DOJ), as members, to receive and evaluate complaints against the actuations of the police and law enforcement officials in the implementation of this Act. The Committee shall hold office in Manila.

The Committee shall have three subcommittees that will be respectively headed by the Deputy Ombudsmen in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao. The subcommittees shall respectively hold office at the Offices of Deputy Ombudsmen. Three Assistant Solicitors General designated by the Solicitor General, and the regional prosecutors of the DOJ assigned to the regions where the Deputy Ombudsmen hold office shall be members thereof. The three subcommittees shall assist the Grievance Committee in receiving, investigating and evaluating complaints against the police and other law enforcement officers in the implementation of this Act. If the evidence warrants it, they may file the appropriate cases against the erring police and law enforcement officers. Unless seasonably disowned or denounced by the complainants, decisions or judgments in the said cases shall preclude the filing of other cases based on the same cause or causes of action as those that were filed with the Grievance Committee or its branches.

SEC. 57. Ban on Extraordinary Rendition. – No person suspected or convicted of the crime of terrorism shall be subjected to extraordinary rendition to any country unless his or her testimony is needed for terrorist related police investigations or judicial trials in the said country and unless his or her human rights, including the right against torture, and right to counsel, are officially assured by the requesting country and transmitted accordingly and approved by the Department of Justice.

SEC. 58. Extra- Territorial Application of this Act. - Subject to the provision of an existing treaty of which the Philippines is a signatory and to any contrary provision of any law of preferential application, the provisions of this Act shall apply: *(1) to individual persons who commit any of the crimes defined and punished in this Act within the terrestrial domain, interior waters, maritime zone, and airspace of the Philippines; (2) to individual persons who, although physically outside the territorial limits of the Philippines, commit, conspire or plot to commit any of the crimes defined and punished in this Act inside the territorial limits of the Philippines; (3) to individual persons who, although physically outside the territorial limits of the Philippines, commit any of the said crimes on board Philippine ship or Philippine airship; (4) to individual persons who commit any of said crimes within any embassy, consulate, or diplomatic premises belonging to or occupied by the Philippine government in an official capacity; (5) to individual persons who, although physically outside the territorial limits of the Philippines, commit said crimes against Philippine citizens or persons of Philippine descent, where their citizenship or ethnicity was a factor in the commission of the crime; and (6) to individual persons who, although physically outside the territorial limits of the Philippines, commit said crimes directly against the Philippine government.*

SEC. 59. Joint Oversight Committee. - There is hereby created a Joint Oversight Committee to oversee the implementation of this Act. The Oversight Committee shall be composed of five members each from the Senate and the House in addition to the Chairs of the Committees of Public Order of both Houses who shall also Chair the Oversight Committee in the order specified herein. The membership of the Committee for every House shall at least have two opposition or minority members. The Joint Oversight Committee shall have its own independent counsel.

The Chair of the Committee shall rotate every six months with the Senate chairing it for the first six months and the House for the next six months. In every case, the ranking opposition or minority member of the Committee shall be the Vice Chair.

Upon the expiration of one year after this Act is approved by the President, the Committee shall review the Act particularly the provisions that authorize the surveillance of suspects of or persons charged with the crime of terrorism. To that end, the Committee shall summon the police and law enforcement officers and the members of the Anti-Terrorism Council and require them to answer questions from the members of Congress and to submit a written report of the acts they have done in the implementation of the law including the manner in which the persons suspected of or charged with the crime of terrorism have been dealt with in their custody and from the date when the movements of the latter were subjected to surveillance and his or her correspondences, messages, conversations and the like were listened to or subjected to monitoring, recording and tapping.

Without prejudice to its submitting other reports, the Committee shall render a semi-annual report to both Houses of Congress. The report may include where necessary a recommendation to reassess the effects of globalization on terrorist activities on the people, provide a sunset clause to or amend any portion of the Act or to repeal the Act in its entirety.

The courts dealing with anti-terrorism cases shall submit to Congress and the President a report every six months of the status of anti-terrorism cases that have been filed with them starting from the date this Act is implemented.

SEC. 60. Separability Clause. - If for any reason any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain and continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 61. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules or regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 62. Special Effectivity Clause. - After the bill shall have been signed into law by the President, the Act shall be published in three newspapers of national circulation; three newspapers of local circulation, one each in Ilocos Norte, Baguio City and Pampanga; three newspapers of local circulation, one each in Cebu, Iloilo and Tacloban; and three newspapers of local circulation, one each in Cagayan de Oro, Davao and General Santos City.

The title of the Act and its provisions defining the acts of terrorism that are punished shall be aired everyday at primetime for seven days, morning, noon and night over three national television and radio networks; three radio and television networks, one each in Cebu, Tacloban and Iloilo; and in five radio and television networks, one each in Lanao del Sur, Cagayan de Oro, Davao City, Cotabato City and Zamboanga City. The publication in the newspapers of local circulation and the announcements over local radio and television networks shall be done in the dominant language of the community.

After the publication required above shall have been done, the Act shall take effect two months after the elections are held in May 2007.

Thereafter, the provisions of this Act shall be automatically suspended one month before and two months after the holding of any election.

Approved,

JOSE DE VENECIA JR.
Speaker of the House of Representatives

MANNY VILLAR
President of the Senate

This Act which is a consolidation of Senate Bill No. 2137 and House Bill No. 4839 was finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on February 8, 2007 and February 19,2007, respectively.

ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General
House of Representatives

OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate

Approved March 6, 2007

GLORIA MACAPAGAL - ARROYO
President of the Philippines

MAGTULUNGAN LABAN SA TERORISMO

IPAPATUPAD SA HULYO 15, 2007